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The Jerusalem Post interviews Peres and Shamir

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'I don't think contacts with Jordan have collapsed... I am engaged in quiet diplomacy'



'There will be no revolution after the rotation in the premiership'

Arrest in Berlin blast

Detained man is brother of El Al case suspect

By JERRY LEWIS
Post Correspondent and Agencies
LONDON. - Information obtained by Scotland Yard during the interrogation of Nezar Hindawi, the chief suspect in the attempted bombing of an El Al plane last week, led to the arrest in West Berlin of Hindawi's brother, who is suspected of organizing the bombing of a discotheque there.

Two people were killed and 230 injured in the explosion, which was

Britain, West Germany and Denmark move to expel Libyans - Page 4

apparently aimed at U.S. servicemen who frequented the place.

Over 400 people would have been killed if the bomb that Hindawi gave to his girlfriend had been taken aboard the plane as planned.

The bomb was discovered by an El Al security man just before Anne-Marie Murphy boarded the plane bound for Tel Aviv.

The West Berlin authorities identified Hindawi's brother as Ahmed Nawaf Mansour Hazi, who was arrested on Monday.

Hindawi, a 32-year-old Jordanian, was remanded in custody for 9 days yesterday when he appeared in court on face charges on his involvement in the bombing attempt.

Hindawi, looking tired and



Ahmed Nawaf Mansour Hazi (Reuters)

drawn, did not speak in court, though he appeared able to follow the proceedings, despite a defence plea that he needed an interpreter.

Meanwhile, British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd told Parliament yesterday that 21 Libyan students were to be deported from Britain. He said they were "fanatical supporters of Col. Gaddafi" and their presence here was not required, as they were a "threat to national security."

He refused to expand on what activities they had been responsible for, but it is known that one of the group, 23-year-old Adil Masood, is the trainee pilot who called from Britain to a Libyan radio phone-in programme offering his services as a kamikaze pilot willing to attack American targets in Britain.

American agents lured the suspects to Bermuda

Israelis held for 'trying to smuggle arms to Iran'

Jerusalem Post Staff
Five of the men charged with attempting to sell \$2.5 billion worth of arms to Iran, including three Israelis, were lured by undercover U.S. customs agents to Bermuda, where they were arrested by the local authorities.

Another four men allegedly involved in the massive arms deal were arrested in New York yesterday, where indictments against 17 people were issued by U.S. attorney Rudolph Giuliani. He charged that the ring had sought to illegally sell to Iran F-4 Phantom and F-5 Skyhawk fighters as well as attack helicopters, surface-to-air missiles and other weaponry based in Israel.

A joint statement by the Defence Ministry and the Foreign Ministry said last night that the government of Israel had no connection to the affair. The Israeli embassy in Washington has been instructed to convey this strenuous denial of involvement to the American government.

Israeli officials in Washington said that if the accusations were true, the implicated Israelis had been operating on their own, without official sanction. Israeli arms dealers who have been involved in the past in selling weapons to Iran last night expressed shock at the exposure of the arms ring. They said that no arms deals between Israel and Iran had taken

place for years, due to American opposition.

Neither the White House nor the State Department had any comment on the indictments.

The three Israelis were identified by Giuliani as Guri Eisenberg, his father Israel Eisenberg, and Brig. Gen. Avraham Bar-Am. Bar-Am is a former military attaché to Israel's Embassy in Turkey and a former armoured corps officer.

Two of the five held in Bermuda are Americans. One, Samuel Evans, a lawyer based in London, is reportedly a key man in the affair. The other is William Northrop, who lives in Tel Aviv.

Nine other suspects in the case are still at large.

Still being sought were two more men who appeared to be Israelis, surnamed Hebroni and Humpso, who were identified by Giuliani's office as the treasurer and lawyer of the BIT Corporation, said to be an Israeli concern involved in carrying out the necessary paperwork to arrange the transfer of most of the arms from Israel to Iran.

According to the Royal Gazette of Bermuda, contacted by phone by The Jerusalem Post, the American agents who uncovered the ring had posed as arms dealers interested in selling weapons to Iran. They (Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

London bomb linked to Vienna, Rome attacks

By YEHUDA LITANI
Post Middle East Editor

Reliable Western experts confirmed last night that Syria had been actively involved in last week's attempt to plant a bomb aboard an El Al plane, and in the twin terrorist attacks on check-in counters at Rome and Vienna airports in December.

British newspapers reported on Sunday that the bomb destined for the El Al plane had been prepared at the Syrian Embassy in London.

The experts said the Abu Nidal terrorist group, which is backed by Syria and Libya, had been directly involved in the three incidents.

The attackers in Rome and Vienna had been trained in Syria and had left on their mission from Syrian territory, the experts said.

The experts said Syrian involvement in terror attacks against Israeli and Western targets abroad and in Lebanon was deepening.



Yehudi Menuhin rehearses with cellist Mstislav Rostropovich for a concert at the Royal Festival Hall in London last night to mark the violinist's 70th birthday. They played the Brahms Double Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Austrian president says he found charges against Waldheim weak

VIENNA (Reuters). - Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger said last night that as a lawyer he would not dare raise war-crimes charges against former UN secretary-general Kurt Waldheim on the basis of documents he had examined on Waldheim's service during World War II.

But he said that Waldheim, the leading candidate for the Austrian presidential election on May 4, must have known everything about the conduct of Hitler's army in the Bal-

rating was given to nearly 25,000 of 36,000 cases registered by the War Crimes Commission.

He would not have brought charges against Waldheim for two reasons.

The main charge in the UN dossier was that Waldheim was an intelligence officer in Army Group E, which took in reprisals by the Ger-

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in his address to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg yesterday that Israel had no intention of interfering in the Austrian elections. Waldheim was "morally and legally obliged, in his own interest and that of Austria, to furnish some serious answers to a series of questions."

An Army against the Yugoslav people between April 1944 and May 1945. The charge was made on the basis of testimony by an Austrian sergeant who said people had hanged in November 1944 on orders of Lieut. Waldheim.

Documents showed Waldheim was not an intelligence officer but an ordnance officer with no role of command. In addition, Kirchschlaeger, the sergeant, have given false evidence in type of improving his position. Finally, however, and this seems the decisive factor, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as petitioner apparently took no steps as an actual prosecution.

Bank sued over shares collapse

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
and YORAM GAZIT
Jerusalem Post Reporters

TEL AVIV. - The first law suit in the wake of the Bejski Report was filed against the Discount Bank and its chairman Raphael Recanat at the District Court here yesterday.

The suit charges that Discount was guilty of fraud, breach of trust and a false presentation of the situation of its shares in inducing Attorney Moshe Zingel, owner of the G.B. Zingel company, to buy its bank shares.

Zingel claims that in March 1983 he bought \$26,000 worth of shares of the Discount bank and its parent company, I.D.B. When he wanted to sell, the suit says, his bank manager advised him not to do so, saying the shares were a solid, sure investment.

In October 1983, the value of Zingel's shares plummeted to \$11,000.

The suit attributes direct responsibility for Zingel's losses to Recanat. Zingel claims \$13,000 plus interest calculated from October 1983.

The defence reply has not yet been filed.

Peres tells Council of Europe

Israel is ready to let Gazans take Jordanian passports

By YOSSI LEMKOWICZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent and Agencies

Premier Shimon Peres said yesterday that Israel was willing for Gaza Strip residents to be given Jordanian passports. Peres was speaking in Strasbourg, where he addressed the parliamentary assembly of the 21-nation Council of Europe.

Peres's suggestion is in line with the ideas he expressed in an interview in today's Jerusalem Post, in which he says that Israel should encourage links between Jordan and Gaza to advance the peace process. (See page 5.)

Speaking to the assembly, Peres said that the "only framework" that held promise for peace between Israel and its neighbours, and for solving the Palestinian problem, was "direct negotiations between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and an Israeli delegation."

He said Israel was determined to reach a settlement with those Palestinians "who reject terrorism and violence," should they assume leadership roles.

Referring to his Marshall Plan for the Middle East at a press conference after his speech, Peres said he had heard some "encouraging" responses from several Arab coun-

tries, which he did not name. Peres stressed to the assembly that industrialized countries, which are expected to save an estimated \$70 billion this year from the drop in oil prices, should channel some of these savings to an economic rehabilitation programme for the Middle East.

Peres said that action taken against international terrorism should be "constant, comprehensive and consistent in its application. Terrorism is uncompromising, thus it must be confronted in an uncompromising way." Peres stressed that cooperation by Western countries in the battle against terror might restrain those who backed terror and thus might contain the problem.

At the press conference, Peres corrected press reports that French Premier Jacques Chirac had agreed to sell Israel a nuclear reactor, on condition that Iraq received a similar reactor. "There is no parallel between the two," Peres said. "Israel is looking for a nuclear reactor to produce electricity," he said, noting that the Iraq reactor - destroyed by Israeli bombs in 1981 - "produced problems, but not energy."

Before leaving for home via Paris, the premier was received at the Strasbourg town hall by the mayor, and later met leaders of the Jewish community.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Leumi praises Japhet as banks ponder Bejski report

By PINHAS LANDAU

The boards of Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi met yesterday to discuss the Bejski Commission report and, in the case of Hapoalim, to accept the resignation of Giora Gazit as chairman of the management board.

Leumi's board, in its first official response, noted that its discussion yesterday was only preliminary. "Given the wide range of issues covered in the report and its recommendations, it was decided, at the request of some board members, to hold further discussions after they have completed their study of the report."

Referring to the recommendation that the Leumi chairman resign within 30 days of the report's publication, the board stated that "only after completion of the study and the additional discussions will Mr. Japhet be asked to announce his decision regarding the personal recommendations, and the board will announce its stand on the various issues."

The statement dwelt at length on the board's warm regard for Japhet, praising his leadership of the bank

over many years, his contributions to Israel's economy, and his worldwide banking connections. It concluded: "The board stresses that Mr. Japhet has always worked under the authority of the board and on its behalf."

Hapoalim's statement, coming after Gazit's resignation on Tuesday, said the board "accepted his resignation with sorrow" and announced that he had agreed to stay in his post until a replacement was appointed. It noted that Gazit had only become a senior executive at Hapoalim at a late stage of the bank-share regulation process, and that his openness to attempts to stop the regulation had been mentioned by the commission. "Unfortunately," said Hapoalim's statement, "the Treasury did not implement its own ideas to stop the regulation." Finally, the board stressed Gazit's contribution to the bank and to the economy.

Bank Discount has not yet issued a formal reaction to the report. Journalists were warned not to ask chairman Raphael Recanat any questions about the Bejski report at the press conference, since he would refuse to answer them.

(Avraham Shapira's role, page 2)

Army head against Israeli political meetings in areas

By ASHER WALLEISH
and JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Chief of General Staff Rav-Aluf Moshe Levy said yesterday that "political meetings which entail intervention by the IDF mean bad trouble."

Levy spoke at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee discussion of assaults by Jewish settlers in the West Bank on MKs going to a Peace Now meeting in Hebron. He said: "I believe personally that political meetings in the territories are bad."

The assaulted Knesset members were on their way to an Arab-Jewish assembly in a Hebron hotel organized by Peace Now, during the course of the Tehiya party conference held in nearby Kiryat Arba.

Levy said: "When I have to brief my officers on their assignments in such situations, I am not always capable of looking them straight in the eye."

Every member of the committee who spoke, condemned the settlers' (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Samartan Passover

By JOEL GREENBERG
MT. GERIZIM. - In a fervent and

sometimes ecstatic ceremony, hundreds of white-clad Samaritans held their annual Passover sacrifice yesterday, slaughtering about a dozen sheep in a ritual about 3,000 years old.

Israel gets ready for Pessah - Page 3

The sacrifice was held at dusk at the summit of the Samaritans' holy site of Mount Gerizim, and was watched by tourists, Israelis, and residents of neighbouring Nablus.

About half an hour before sunset, the white-bearded Samaritan high priest, 96-year-old Jacob Cohen, was escorted to the slaughtering area by a crowd of chanting men, some of whom carried butchers' knives and wore rubber boots. All wore white shirts, trousers or robes; their heads were covered with red turbans or plain wool caps.

Cohen, wearing a green robe and a prayer shawl, was flanked by two white-turbaned priests clad in blue and purple. They led a semi-circle of men in rhythmic chanting of Hebrew verses from the Samaritan pentateuch describing the Israelite exodus from Egypt.

ual marks

The chanting was echoed by hundreds of men and boys who readied the sheep for slaughter at an earthen altar, consisting of a trench lined with stones.

At a signal from the priests, the sheep were slaughtered simultaneously, evoking an ecstatic outburst of cheering, chanting, and clapping by the Samaritan men and women looking on.

Their white robes and hands splattered with blood, the men lifted blood-soaked knives into the air, embraced, and kissed each other on both cheeks. Many daubed blood on each other's foreheads and on the cheeks of children.

The sheep were moved onto metal grills where they were plucked and disembowelled, and later spit-roasted over large firepits. The meat was to be eaten at midnight, along with matza and bitter herbs.

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HOME NEWS

Black Hebrews call off protest march to capital

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter
DIMONA - The police yesterday persuaded the Black Hebrews to call off their planned protest march to Jerusalem. Police said the march was illegal and liable to provoke disturbances.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that since Yitzhak Peretz became interior minister, he has worked to deport the Black Hebrews to the U.S., although 78 of the adults in the sect have renounced their U.S. citizenship and a third of the group is made up of Israeli-born members.

Under the latest policy any sect member arrested for any reason, is charged with illegal residence, and deportation proceedings are begun. This was what happened last week with the arrest in Rehovot of 46 Black Hebrews, who had allegedly been working without permits and had no visas.

The planned march to Jerusalem, together with a hunger strike, was to protest against the arrest and scheduled deportation of the 46.

After cult leader Ben-Ami Carter announced the march at a press conference in Tel Aviv on Monday, he returned to his headquarters here to plan strategy. But the police, fearing confrontations during the march as well as the disruption of traffic during the Pessah holiday, decided to stop it.

"We met and talked with Carter twice during the night," said Negev police commander Haim Ben-Ayun. "The first time, at 8 p.m., we told him in no uncertain terms that we did not want trouble." He said that 600 policemen had surrounded the cult's headquarters to prevent anyone from setting out. Four men tried to break through just before dawn, and were detained.

They did not ask for a permit. They are all here illegally to begin with, and marching without a permit would have added insult to injury," Ben-Ayun said.

When, at 4 a.m., there were signs that Carter was losing his grip on his followers, Ben-Ayun and Dimona police chief David Vaknin spelled out the consequences of any illegal action.

"I said that if they tried anything funny we would arrest them, even women, and resort to violence if necessary. He realized we meant business and called on everyone to understand the situation and cooperate," Ben-Ayun said.

Eight mounted policemen, a crack central police unit, a tear gas unit, civil defence troops and Border Police were on hand from dawn - "we brought in a little of everything" - and by 10:30 yesterday morning it was all over.

"They sang songs from the Bible and called out all kinds of things, but our instructions to them, in Hebrew and in English, not to come out were effective," said Ben-Ayun.

The Black Hebrews cult - estimated by police to be 2,500 strong, but put at just 1,500 by defectors from the group - lives in an abandoned absorption centre on the edge of Dimona. Two much smaller groups live in Arad and in Mizpe Ramon, but all the cult's children go to school in Dimona.

After the situation had been defused yesterday morning, Ben-Ayun and Vaknin met Carter to formalize a "truce." Half the force surrounding their centre was sent home, and police agreed to consider Carter's request that they free the four men arrested earlier.



Black Hebrews face police in Dimona shortly before the authorities persuaded members of the sect to call off their protest march to Jerusalem. (AFP)

Dig reveals Herod favoured Italian, but not kosher, wine

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA - The nearly 2,000-year-old "wine list" of King Herod, from the stores near his two palaces in Masada, has been made public for the first time.

The find, made in the course of the late Yigael Yadin's excavation of Masada during 1963-65, is considered of universal interest for the light it sheds on Rome's trade with its provinces and the lifestyle of the aristocracy.

Dr. Hannah Cotton and Prof. Joseph Geiger, of the Hebrew University's Faculty of Humanities, presented the results of their study of the finds at a recent conference on "The House of Herod" at the Haifa University.

They said that the excavations had yielded several fragments of amphorae - Roman bottles - bearing nearly identical ink inscriptions in Latin.

But, unlike the thousands of amphorae found throughout what was once the Roman Empire, the inscriptions on the amphorae from Masada contain, in addition to the usual information, a reference to the recipient as well. They read "To Herod the Jewish King."

The markings clearly show that the wine was made in Italy. "They are the first palpable evidence of Italian wine being imported to this country."

The date inscribed corresponds to the year 19 BCE, but it has not been established whether it refers to the vintage, the "bottling" i.e. transfer from vat to amphora, or the time of export.

The finds make clear that Herod favoured foreign wines over the domestic product either because he and his court considered it genuinely superior, or as a matter of prestige, the scholars said.

They also make it clear that Herod had no compunction about drinking the "wine of the Gentiles," prohibited by Jewish religious law.

That was hardly surprising, Cotton and Geiger held. "Because the people did not expect Herod to keep a 100 per cent kosher court kitchen. He abstained from pork and that satisfied them." The find may support the theory that the explicit prohibition against drinking wine made by non-Jews was introduced by the sages only in the year 60 CE during the revolt against Rome, as one of the measures against all things foreign.

The name of Herod's wine, "Philonianum," could not be traced by the scholars, and they believe it may have been the name of a single vineyard producing especially choice wines.

The name of the vintner, "Laenit," could not be definitely traced either, but the scholars believe that he came from a family in the Brundisium (now Brindisi) region of southern Italy.

The full report on Herod's gourmet wine is due to be published shortly, as part of a major new scientific evaluation of the finds of the Masada excavations.

Nation readies for Pessah holiday

Jerusalem Post Staff
When Isai and Grigory Goldstein sit down tonight at their first Seder in Israel their thoughts will be with the Jews they left behind in the Soviet Union.

"They are still in bondage," Isai told The Jerusalem Post yesterday. "Our main concern, especially during Pessah - a celebration of freedom - is to do whatever we can to free Soviet Jews."

The Goldsteins will be sharing a Seder with 70 other immigrants in a Ramat Aviv absorption centre.

Some 9,000 immigrants, including 6,000 Ethiopians, have been invited to Seders organized by the Jewish Agency.

But luxury hotels will be half empty tonight as a result of cancellations from U.S. visitors, who have been discouraged from travelling to the Middle East.

In Haifa, religious residents have been urged to invite their secular neighbours to a Seder. The "Bring Hearts Together" campaign was launched by Haifa Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen.

Several hundred needy Haifa residents are expected at two public Seders sponsored by the Haifa Religious Council, one at the Engineers' Club and the other in the Neve David quarter on the city's western outskirts.

Cohen and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi Dorin are visiting hospital patients, bringing them Pessah greetings and Haggadahs, with nuts and sweets for the hospitalized children.

The Beit Dagan weather forecasting centre says there will be pleasant spring weather until the end of the week. Waves in the Mediterranean sea will be between 1 and 1.5 metres high, with the water temperature about 20 degrees. In Eilat, the temperature of the water will be about 24 degrees.

Magen David Adom is doubling the number of ambulance drivers on duty next week in the south, where some 150,000 visitors are expected for the holiday.

The Egged and Dan bus cooperatives are to put their entire bus fleets on the roads today to meet the expected extra demand.

Egged has received orders for 200 special buses to Eilat during the holiday from various groups, in addition to its regular buses to and from the town.

Bus services today will end at about 5 p.m.

Much confusion can be expected during the intermediate days of Pessah, following Monday's agreement between the Histadrut and the Civil Service Commission allowing each government unit to decide by majority vote whether it wishes to close down during these days.

But civil servants were informed of the agreement only yesterday, and it was unclear as of last night which offices will be open and which closed.

Help planned for couples with fertility troubles

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV - The Israel Family Planning Association wants to offer group therapy to couples who need help in dealing with the tensions caused by fertility problems.

Leaders of the association told a press conference here yesterday that though the new programme is not scheduled to begin until autumn, they would like to hear now from interested couples so that they can gauge the demand for the service. Further information may be obtained by calling the association at 03-281228.

Prof. Zvi Palti, a gynaecologist and chairman of the association, said fertility was not just a gynaecological or medical problem.

"We all know about the mother-in-law who wants to see her daughter-in-law in profile every time they meet to see if she's pregnant yet. Many women assume the blame for the couple's infertility even when the problem is the husband's. We want to help couples before these tensions start affecting them, or to help others already suffering from the results," Palti said.

On Monday, May 5, the association is to hold a conference on fertility problems at Kfar-Hamaccabiah.

Why is this night different? Crime increases 10-15%

By BARBARA AMOUYAL
For The Jerusalem Post
Thousands of vacant houses, unattended automobiles, overcrowded public recreation spots and tourist sites, and the number of prisoners paroled for holidays, traditionally bring with them a 10 to 15 per cent rise in crime during the Pessah holidays.

Some 1,200 prisoners from 12 prisons are due to be released on holiday leave of 48-96 hours. Prisons Service officials say all prisoners are carefully screened before being declared eligible for leave, and that the releases are justified. But senior police officers say there is a direct correlation between mass prison releases and the alarming rise in crime.

"We work so hard to arrest these criminals and to bring them to court, and the Prisons Service lets them out to commit more crime," an angry deputy commander told The Jerusalem Post this week.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev, who says he is aware of the argument on the issue between the police and the Prisons Service, maintains that the police's bitterness is unjustified. "There's no connection between Prisons Service Commissioner Rafi Suissa's home leave policy and the rise in crime," he insists.

Bar-Lev recently announced plans for a nationwide police campaign intended to forestall holiday crime. Thousands of policemen, border police, civil guard and civil defence volunteers will patrol tourist sites and undertake surveillance of residential areas and parking lots.

Last year, with Pessah falling in April, reported cases of property crimes during that month surged to 17,029, compared to an average of 15,600 recorded for other months of 1985.

Police say burglars take advantage of the easy targets left for them by unthinking holidaymakers. They advise vacationing families to double check that all doors and windows are left locked, and to leave on a lamp or two. A neighbour should come regularly to check that all is well and to pick up any mail or newspapers.

The drug trade also tends to become more active around Pessah, because many students and tourists "have money and time to engage in 'recreational' drugs," according to a Jerusalem branch detective. Beefed up police anti-narcotics operations over the holiday will concentrate on places such as Jerusalem's Old City and the Tel Aviv beachfront, where drugs are often bought and sold openly.

Police have also called for increased public awareness in detecting and reporting "suspicious persons or objects."

For elderly, public Seders offer respite from loneliness

By TSIPPI KUPER
For The Jerusalem Post
For Yosef Cohen and his wife this night will be no different from any other night. The elderly couple, who live near Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, have nowhere to go for their Seder.

"The children? They're gone. Far away," Yosef gestures with his hand. We used to go to a daughter in Tiberias for the holidays, but this year we're sick. Got no strength left to travel."

Dozens of voluntary and public social service organizations arrange large Seders for those who have nowhere else to go. Hundreds of people - the elderly who live alone, families of new immigrants celebrating their first Pessah in the country, and singles - attend such Seders at community centres and public halls.

But there are hundreds more who may have no communal Seder in their neighbourhood, or who may be unaware of the possibility. Some may be too embarrassed to attend.

Religious councils and voluntary organizations distribute holiday gifts, usually a box of matza and a bottle of wine, for the needy.

In Kiryat Gat, some 200 old people are expected at Seder at a new day centre for the elderly. Jerusalem's Gilo community centre has ordered restaurant food for 180 Seder guests. "The place will look like a five-star restaurant," one volunteer said.

The local authorities' welfare offices often try to twin elderly people who have no relatives with families prepared to feed a few extra mouths.

But those who are not regularly in contact with the welfare offices may have real problems at Pessah. "Lonely people may not necessarily be poor people," said Miriam Cohen, head of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry's services for the elderly in the Jerusalem region. "Most of the welfare cases are taken care of, but nobody knows how many more people are left without a place to go," she points out.

Erica Yoel, in charge of care for the elderly at one of Jerusalem's regional welfare offices, is sure that there are many with nowhere to go for Seder. "But these people are alone throughout the year, not just during Pessah. They need somebody to care and to visit them throughout the year, and this night is no different for them, despite the words at the start of the Seder rubric."

Eugen Propper, 74, helped found Osem

Eugen Propper, a founder of Osem and a pioneer of Israel's food industry, who died on Monday, aged 74, was buried in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Propper was born in Czechoslovakia, where his family owned and operated one of the country's first macaroni plants.

He arrived here with his family in 1940, and set up a small pasta plant. This firm merged with two other food plants in 1942 to form Osem United Macaroni Factories in Palestine.

Osem's seven founding families nominated Propper as managing director, a post which he held until 1972 when he became the chairman of the board of directors.

Osem expanded greatly over the years, setting up joint ventures with Elite and other food manufacturers, and developing Israel's frozen food industry.

Both Propper's sons joined the concern, and are active in the Manu-



Eugen Propper

facturers' Association.

The Propper family recently sold their shares in Osem, thus relinquishing control of the firm.

Propper is survived by his wife Alice, his sons Dan and Gad, and grandchildren.

A.Z.

Lured by Israel's mild winter, pelicans come here to roost

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA - A flock of about a thousand pelicans appears to have spent the winter in Israel, for the first time in recorded natural history. The mild winter may have eliminated their motivation to carry on to Africa's warmer weather.

The big-billed birds generally only pass through Israel on their way between Europe and Africa in autumn and spring.

The swarm was sighted and kept track of by fish breeders in the Jezreel Valley, who are "sure" the birds have not left the country since their arrival last autumn.

Amnon Levin, secretary of the Fish Breeders Union, told The Jerusalem Post that while they had no scientific proof, "the size of the flock has remained constant and there have been no gaps in their appearance, so that we believe they've remained here throughout the winter."

Ornithologist Menahem Adar, of the Nature Protection Society, told The Post that the report was "worth studying for verification," as it would be most unusual for pelicans to stay over the whole winter.

But the breeders and ornithologists take diametrically opposed views on the birds' odd behaviour.

The breeders see them as a menace to their ponds, since they eat up to three kilos of fish a day each if undisturbed, and cause tens of millions of shekels worth of damage.

But Adar sees the pelicans as an endangered species and Israel as responsible for their well-being. He says that the pelicans' free-loading on pond fish can be solved without shooting them down, by stretching ropes across the ponds, or otherwise scaring them off without harming them.

"These intelligent birds have already learned that if they are chased away from the ponds, they can safely stay in the Hula Valley Nature Reserve, where fish are also plentiful. There they are welcome to eat their fill," Adar said.

While he sympathized with the breeders, he thought that they too must understand that if a species was forced to disappear it was impossible to revive it. "A few fish are not too high a price to pay to preserve the pelicans."

Levin, a member of a Jezreel valley kibbutz which has been the unwilling host to the voracious birds, said all methods of shooting the birds had failed to keep them off the ponds. "If they decide to stay here, semi-permanently, we'll really be in trouble."

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Britain, Denmark and Germany to order expulsions

EEC rejects force against Libya, but will restrict diplomats

LUXEMBOURG - The 12 EEC foreign ministers did not discuss any joint military action against Libya during their meeting here Monday, diplomats disclosed after President Reagan said in Washington that several European allies had suggested "real major" joint action.

Diplomats said the 12 ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) had not discussed any sanctions against Libya outside the fields of diplomatic relations and security precautions.

The 12 reportedly agreed to reduce the number of Libyan diplomats and non-diplomats in Europe, and restrict their movements. However, Greece said yesterday that it would not immediately implement the EEC decision to curb Libyan activities as it still needed proof that Tripoli sponsored terrorism.

In Bonn, a German Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday night that "no European country would ever take part in a joint military action against Libya with the U.S."

He was commenting on Reagan's statement that several European allies suggested "real major" joint action on a larger scale than the April 15 attack.

He added: "I cannot imagine that President Reagan made such statements."

The West Germans also denied a report in *The New York Times* yesterday that Chancellor Helmut Kohl privately expressed support for military action against Libya before last week's air strikes.

The *Times* quoted an unidentified U.S. official as saying Kohl and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi favoured "stronger military action" against Libya but told the U.S. in private talks that they could not adopt that position publicly.

But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in London she would provide logistic support for a new U.S. air raid on Libya "if necessary," adding that the attack a week ago was "justified."

At the U.N. Security Council Monday night, the U.S., Britain and France vetoed a draft resolution condemning the U.S. for last week's attack.

France, though it refused to let U.S. bombs overfly its territory en route to Libya, joined in the veto after declaring the draft to be "unacceptable" since it was "excessive and unbalanced" and did not men-



Muammar Gaddafi's wife and one of her sons at a press conference in Tripoli on Monday at which she called Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher "terrorists." She blamed them for killing her baby daughter, one of the victims of last week's U.S. air raid. (AFP)

tion "the Libyan responsibilities." Libya warned West Europeans Monday not to restrict its embassies or impose other sanctions.

The country's official Jana news agency said West European nations would become partners in what it called "the ugly American crime" if they imposed diplomatic or other sanctions.

Despite the warning, and in keeping with the EEC decision, West Germany yesterday announced it was ordering a sharp cut in the size of the Libyan mission in Bonn and reducing its own embassy in Tripoli.

Bonn sources said Libya would be told to reduce the staff of its people's bureau (embassy) from 41, including 11 diplomats, to under 15.

West Germany planned to reduce its personnel in Tripoli to the same level.

British police yesterday rounded up 21 Libyans for deportation, including a trainee pilot who threatened to form an anti-U.S. suicide squad, and the government threatened more expulsions if necessary.

The Libyans, almost all of them university students, were seized in a series of raids in England, Wales and Scotland.

Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands are also to cut the number of Libyan diplomats accredited in their countries, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said yesterday, adding that the size of the cuts would be decided next week.

Libya has 14 diplomats in the Benelux nations.

In Copenhagen, Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said Denmark would expel several of its seven resident Libyan diplomats "as soon as possible."

In Washington, the government halted European curbs on Libyan diplomatic and other personnel but said more must be done to combat international terrorism. (AFP, Reuters, AP)

Bomb damages American consulate in Thai city

BANGKOK (AP) - A bomb tossed from a passing car exploded inside the compound of the U.S. consulate in the southern Thai city of Songkhla early yesterday, officials said. No injuries were reported.

Songkhla is about 950 km. from here.

Authorities said the explosion shattered windows in the consulate and damaged a fence surrounding it.

Mayor Prachoti Ekuru said he suspected the bombers were a group of eight to 10 pro-Libyan Muslims who recently arrived in Songkhla "for sabotage." The group, from nearby Narathiwat province, included Thais and foreigners, he said without elaborating.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Bangkok said there was apparently no one at the consulate at the time except a Thai security guard, who was unharmed. The spokesman, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said Consul Pancho Hud-

die was on leave.

In Kuala Lumpur, police escorted the wife of a senior U.S. diplomat home Monday after she alleged that several men in a car belonging to the Libyan Embassy had trailed her through the city.

U.S. diplomats said that the woman, who asked not to be identified, was followed from her home in Ampang Hill, a housing enclave popular among diplomats, into the Malaysian capital from where she called the police.

Meanwhile, police in Lima said that the dynamite-laden car which exploded against the heavily fortified U.S. ambassador's residence early Monday caused considerable damage to the building. There were no casualties.

The blast destroyed a reinforced perimeter wall and security fence around the residence which is among the most heavily guarded buildings in the Peruvian capital.

Soviets are ready to destroy chemical arms factories

GENEVA (Reuters) - The Soviet Union yesterday told the 40-nation Geneva disarmament conference it was ready to allow foreign inspectors to watch its chemical arms plants being destroyed under a projected ban on the weapons.

But chief Soviet delegate Viktor Issaev said at a news conference that Moscow remained opposed to earlier U.S. verification proposals that had deadlocked negotiations on an accord to outlaw development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

Issaev said Moscow had already agreed in 1984 to permanent international inspection of sites where chemical weapons were being destroyed. Its new proposals provided for systematic on-site inspection of dismantling and destruction of plants producing chemical arms.

They also covered international

inspection of plants used to destroy these weapons, he said.

Israeliyan told reporters Moscow continued to reject as unrealistic and discriminatory a 1984 U.S. proposal that all states agree to open military and government plants to foreign inspectors at 24 hours' notice to prove that they were complying with a ban.

Today's Soviet gambit was overshadowed by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a speech to the East German Communist Party congress in East Berlin last Friday.

He said it was aimed at resolving outstanding differences between Moscow and Washington on a chemical arms ban, which has been under negotiation in the Geneva disarmament body since the late 1960s.

Afghans destroy rebel bases, sign new pact with Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) - A key Afghan guerrilla base has been "completely cleared" of insurgents, the official news agency Tass said yesterday in a rare Soviet report on the Afghan conflict.

The report said another major guerrilla base near the Pakistan border is largely under Afghan army control.

In its report from Kabul on the fighting in Afghanistan, Tass said the guerrilla base at Zhawar, a large underground complex said to be heavily defended by tank and artillery units, had been cleared of rebels and a second base 10 km. away had been largely captured by Afghan troops.

In Pakistan, guerrilla leaders confirmed that they had suffered heavy losses in fierce fighting and said that their base at Zhawar might have been overrun by Soviet and Afghan troops.

Tass made no mention of Soviet troops being involved in the assault on the guerrilla bases.

Soviet media customarily refer to the "limited contingent" of Soviet troops helping Afghans rebuild shattered villages or modernize their economy rather than fighting.

Tass also reported that the USSR and Afghanistan yesterday signed a treaty on trade and economic cooperation. A protocol on economic cooperation to the year 1990 was signed in Moscow.

Both sides reiterated there could be no political settlement of the Afghan crisis - which would lead to a withdrawal of Soviet troops - until there was an end to "outside interference."

The Soviets have an estimated 118,000 soldiers in Afghanistan.

New Bhutto success
ISLAMABAD (AFP) - Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, 32, scored a new success in her campaign against President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq when over 100,000 greeted her first sortie into the Northwest Frontier Province.

IN BRIEF

Capone's cupboard was almost bare

CHICAGO (AP) - Excavators who opened a mysterious vault linked to American gangster Al Capone on live television Monday ended the months-long, million-dollar romantic adventure without finding any significant relics.

After pulling down a 7,000-pound concrete wall covering the chamber's opening, and using explosives to blast through a second wall, workers found little besides an old liquor bottle.

Reporters were not allowed inside the basement of the Lexington Hotel, which once served as Capone's South Side headquarters and was honeycombed with secret passages and tunnels.

Among the interested parties on hand at the hotel was the Internal Revenue Service. Some believed Capone sealed cash reserves in the vault in 1932, when he left Chicago to serve an eight-year stretch in federal prison for income tax evasion.

French charge Duvalier with dodging taxes
PARIS (Reuters) - France is taking ousted Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier to court on charges of dodging property taxes due on a sprawling 18th-century chateau north-west of Paris, legal sources said yesterday.

They said public prosecutor Jacques Bidault filed charges that Duvalier, who fled to France on February 7 after an upsurge of violence in Haiti, deliberately undervalued the chateau which he bought in 1984 for more than a million dollars.

The chateau, located near the home of exiled Central African Republic leader Jean-Bedel Bokassa, is one of at least four homes owned by Duvalier in France and Monte Carlo.

U.S. press need not prove truth in libel actions
WASHINGTON (AP) - The news media do not have to prove the truth of defamatory statements that prompt libel lawsuits, the Supreme Court ruled this week.

By a 5-4 vote in a case involving the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the justices said the U.S. Constitution requires people who sue the news media to prove that the defamatory statement about them is false.

Past rulings had established that public officials and public figures who sue for libel have the burden of proving the allegedly libelous statements were untrue. But until Monday, state laws varied over who - a plaintiff or defendant - has the burden of proof when a private citizen sues the news media.

Spain advances general elections
MADRID (AFP) - General elections are to be held in Spain on June 22, a government spokesman said on Monday.

They had been scheduled for Autumn.

The spokesman said the decision had been taken because of "favourable economic prospects" in Spain and because the current parliament had carried out the task for which it had been elected. Spain entered the European Economic Community last January.

The ruling Socialist Party obtained an absolute majority at the last elections in October 1982.

Gromyko reported ill, in hospital

MOSCOW (AP) - President Andrei Gromyko, reported by a visiting delegation to have been hospitalized last week, skipped an important Communist Party gathering yesterday.

Gromyko, 76, also was the only Moscow-based politburo member not on hand to greet party chief Mikhail Gorbachev at the airport when he returned from a trip to East Berlin.

Last week, Jo Benkow, speaker of the Norwegian parliament, told Norwegian reporters that Gromyko was to have met Benkow's delegation but sent regrets. He said he had fallen ill the night before with a high fever and was in the hospital.

There were no details on what was wrong with Gromyko, the oldest member of the 12-man ruling Politburo.

39 seconds off \$50,000

BOSTON (AFP) - Australian Rob De Castella was only 39 seconds away from winning a \$50,000 bonus offered to any competitor setting a new world record when he triumphed in the 90th Boston Marathon.

De Castella, Commonwealth champion in 1982 and world champion in 1983, stormed home in the excellent time of 2:27.51, breaking his previous fastest time of 2:28.18 set in the Fukuoka marathon in Japan in 1981.

Only Olympic champion Carlos Lopes of Portugal (who ran the fastest 26 miles in Rotterdam last year when he clocked 2:27.12) and Welshman Steve Jones (who recorded

2:27.13 in last October's Chicago marathon) have run faster marathons.

Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen won the women's race in 2:24.55 - well outside her world record of 2:21.06 set in London last year. Nevertheless it was the eighth fastest ever and her time was exactly the same as that set by compatriot Grete Waitz in the London Marathon on Sunday.

For the first time since the race was first run in 1897, the organizers had offered prize money to half the declining status. It was the first major marathon to offer equal prize money at all levels to men and women.

Knuckleball changes his life

NEW YORK (AP) - Cleveland's Tom Candiotti found a pitch and now has a place in the major leagues. He hurled a three-hitter and his knuckleball sailed by 10 Baltimore batters as the Indians defeated the

Capital Capitals
NHL - The Washington Capitals got two goals apiece from Bobby Carpenter and defenceman John Barrett to beat the New York Rangers 6-3 and to take a 2-1 lead in their NHL playoff series.

HARTFORD - Rookie goaltender Patrick Roy stopped 20 shots to lead a solid defensive effort by the Montreal Canadiens as they defeated the Hartford Whalers 4-1, to take a one-game advantage in their Adams Division final series.

SCOREBOARD
TENNIS - Monte Carlo: Krickstein d. Dyke 7-5, 6-1; Mestak d. Ken Carlsson 6-3, 6-3; Fierstein d. Tomaz 6-3, 6-3; Morin d. G. Giffard 6-3, 6-3.

SOCCEER - England centre-back Andy Martin blasted a last-trick as West Ham kept their title hopes alive by snatching a last-minute victory over Manchester United 1-0.

BASEBALL - Trevor Francis and Alan Hansen are unavailable through injuries for today's 104th England v Scotland match.

Orlows 7-0 on Monday night. The right-hander played in the Minors in 1985, after spending parts of the previous two seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers.

"I didn't take it seriously until last year, and it's turned me around," Candiotti said of his knuckleball.

Elsewhere in the American League, it was Detroit 5, Boston 4; Toronto 7, Texas 6; and New York 8, Kansas City 4; Minnesota 5, Seattle 2; and Oakland 6, California 2.

In the National League, it was New York 6, Pittsburgh 5; Atlanta 8, Houston 2; San Francisco 5, Los Angeles 1; St. Louis at Chicago was postponed.

SPORTOTO TIPS

Single

1. Roni Yehuda v Mac, PT X
2. Hap. Halia v Bet, JTA X
3. Hap. TA v Shit, Yotef X
4. Mar. TA v Shit, Yotef X
5. Yotef v Mac, Netanya X
6. Hap. JTA v Beer-Sheva X
7. Hap. PT v Mac, Halia X
8. Hap. TA v Shit, Yotef X
9. Hap. TA v Shit, Yotef X
10. Hap. TA v Shit, Yotef X
11. Hap. TA v Shit, Yotef X
12. Hap. TA v Shit, Yotef X
13. Hap. TA v Shit, Yotef X

Caroline's cup... was almost bare

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1986

INTERVIEW

Peres: Key M.E. problem is economics

Prime Minister fears violent Arab collapse

By ROY ISACOWITZ, YEHUDA LITANI, SHLOMO MAOZ and BENNY MORRIS / Jerusalem Post Reporters

PRIME MINISTER Shimon Peres was relaxed but tired as we interviewed him on the eve of his departure Monday for France, where he met President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, and addressed the European Parliament of Strasbourg.

Do you have a feeling of failure concerning the possibility of making peace with Jordan during your premiership (before the rotation) solving the Palestine question and perhaps also with respect to improving relations with Egypt?

I don't have a feeling of failure, and I have never worked on a "piece-work" basis. I know that when you set out on a road there are many difficulties and obstacles. This is not new to me. Concerning Egypt, the negotiations have begun, are continuing, and I hope we are nearing the end. Indeed, there is a greater problem here [between the Likud and Labour] reaching agreement than to concluding the negotiations with Egypt.

Regarding the territories, I think we have greatly changed the policy. You know, a year and a half ago, the whole world focused on the settlements. Now there is an atmosphere of economic progress. I hope that we will be able to appoint mayors for the remaining Arab towns. I think that what we have always thought has been clarified: that the PLO is not a partner for peace negotiations, but at this time it was said by an Arab leader and I don't think contacts with Jordan have collapsed. But of course, it takes more time. What can we do?

In this connection, six months are left until the rotation. What can be done on the Jordanian-Palestinian subject during this time? What are your plans?

My plans are mainly in the field of quiet diplomacy. I think that all the other talk is harmful. And I am engaged in quiet diplomacy. I don't think I should give details. And a new, very interesting dimension has been added. I know that it has encountered a lot of scepticism among us, but I am used to this. That is the economic development plan for the Middle East. I have [had] encouraging responses from all sides.

I believe that the most critical problem [in the Middle East] today is the economic problem. There is a real danger that it will cause the collapse of a number of states.

Look at the economic situation of Jordan. It is really worrying. Jordan has close to half-a-million workers living abroad. That is the main source of income, some \$1 billion per year. The host countries are beginning to send them home, or they are stopping sending money home. They used to get oil cheaply. Now they don't. They used to export their agricultural produce. That has declined. Tourism has fallen off. It has been a bad year. Foreign currency reserves have dropped to a dangerous level of \$400 million.

One Egyptian told me that Egypt is threatened by the danger of becoming another Bangladesh. Egypt had a GNP of \$39 billion. But this has just fallen by \$4.5 billion. This is dramatic. This includes losses from workers abroad, a drop in revenue from the Suez Canal, the drop in tourism, the decreased revenue from oil. And Egypt is not being allowed to carry out its agricultural development plans. The canal that was to have passed through Sudan has been stopped because of the civil war. The situation is really unbearable. And I believe that without aid, the stability of these countries will be endangered.

Could the economic threat endanger the peace treaty with Egypt?

The economic situation could threaten the stability in these countries. In the absence of internal stability, there could be instability in the region.

We also know about the difficult economic situation in Syria. Could it have repercussions on the Middle East?

Syria is more in the Soviet orbit. The Syrians, as far as I know, have only \$50 million in foreign currency reserves. Their GNP dropped last year by 10 per cent. There was negative growth in their balance of payments. The Syrians have started rationing electricity, in Damascus. It is a really tragic situation.

Could it influence Syria towards war?

Anything could. But I think Syria is worried about what happened in Libya. The SAM-5s disappointed Syria now doesn't feel so well protected. You don't go to war only because you want to. You go to war also because you believe you can win. I think the Syrians are now very worried.

There is a tendency on your part now to focus on this economic problem, which are a threat to the Arab countries. But perhaps this is also because there is no possibility now of making a breakthrough towards peace?



"My plans are mainly in the field of quiet diplomacy."

...Firstly, I don't propose to dislodge settlements... We have 1,800 settlers in Gaza. So there'll be 1,800 settlers. But the whole territory of the Gaza Strip is 350,000 dunams. There are 560,000 inhabitants. This is a density of population almost like in Hong Kong. Within 20 years the number of inhabitants will double... I ask myself: Is there any justification in taking away from them 50,000 dunams for Jewish settlement... while there is a Negev, with 12,000,000 dunam... with very few inhabitants. Is there any sense of wisdom in this? (In the West Bank, there are more than 800,000 Arabs and another 130,000 in Jerusalem).

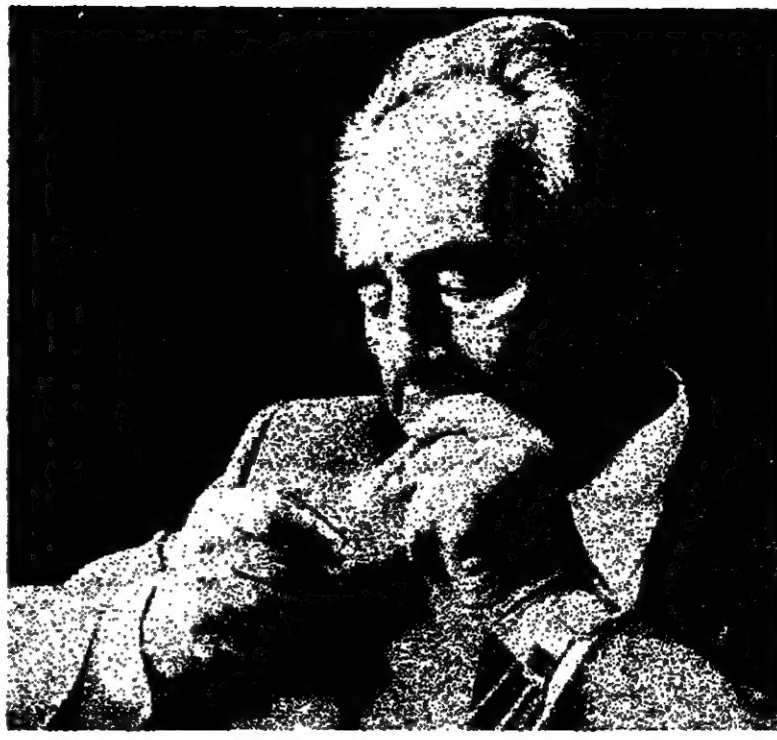
There have recently been reports about setting up a condominium with Egypt in the Strip. What truth is there in this?

Look, all the time trial balloons are being launched. I see the following problems though I myself have never dismissed the idea. The first difficulty is that Egypt has no political interest not to lose the Strip. And whoever deals with Gaza has to take these things into account. But there are, it is true, people in Gaza who want to try instituting autonomy there. But... at the moment I don't see the Egyptians coming and I don't see the Jordanians conceding... However, one shouldn't acquiesce in an air of gloom and doom... we must retain an atmosphere of optimism and faith. We should not enter polemics.

There has never been such a tone [of conversation and attitude] between us and the Arab world. Look how Hussein talks about us. Look how Mubarak talks about us. Look how the world relates to us. There has been a revolutionary change in Israel's position in the world... In relation to Egypt, we [the inner cabinet] took a decision to accept arbitration [over Tabal]... [Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs] Butrus Ghali attended the Labour Party convention, not an easy thing for the Egyptians. We will continue to transfer powers to the mayors in the West Bank.

Over the years, Libya has financed and organized anti-Israeli and anti-Western terrorism. Yet Israel has never struck against Libya. Does Libya—and perhaps Syria as well—enjoy "immunity" from Israeli attack and, if so, why?

Israel chose nearby targets as it didn't want to expand the conflict. We have no intention always of attacking such distant targets. The problem with Libya was not so much that there were terrorist bases on its soil as the services Libya gave terrorism—in money, training, refuge, diplomatic facilities. Here in fact an international operation was needed which Israel alone could not do.



"The most critical problem today is the economic problem."

do. The Americans have now entered the picture. We haven't given immunity to anyone. We, too, are weighing operations, at what investment, at what distance... You cannot look for a single person [such as Abu Nidal].

The Syrians are more careful. They act through proxies. In our relations with Syria, we don't want to appear to be the side provoking war. And I must add that the Syrians have honoured the agreements they have had with us. The American operation demonstrated to Libya that it has also to defend itself.

What do you think of the European reaction to the American raid on Libya, how do you explain it?

Look, there is an element of neutrality in the European policy, there is a certain weariness in that content. This is what Mrs. Thatcher said in Parliament: "We can say to the

"I don't see a chance that Hussein will go to war."

Americans: "Defend us." But when the Americans have to act we turn our backs on them. This is a contradiction.

I think the Europeans will also have to draw conclusions. They can run away from the problem—but not for long.

Don't you feel that the country has moved rightwards, sort of inevitably, that the Labour Party and the public have drifted to the right? Doesn't this worry you?

I don't believe that this is so. I don't think so. All the world's socialist parties have moved from a class-focus to a national or popular focus. In democratic countries, right and left compete for the centre voters. If you want to win, you have to respect the centre. And the right has also moved towards the centre... but only in Europe, not here. I think we have corrected certain mistakes in our party platform. Don't forget that we returned to power after seven years of Likud governments, governments with a high, extremist right-wing tone. You can't say that the centre of the government's activities today is the settlements in the territories—which for seven years was the case; you can't say we stayed in Lebanon; you can't say we didn't accept an international forum for Middle East Peace talks; or that we didn't accept arbitration over Tabal...

Wasn't it a mistake to set up the Bessky Commission on the bank shares? It prevented your replacing the people who were responsible for what had happened during the period of the commission's work—and their continued functioning caused harm to the economy? For example, had you dismissed the governor of the Bank of Israel when you assumed

office, perhaps he wouldn't have been able to make the mistakes he made in the field of interest rates.

One cannot dismiss without checking. The matters had to be investigated first. I have to be fair to everyone... During the past year and a half, there was full cooperation with the governor, both in the fields of interest, capital policy and volume of credit.

It is argued that the economic programme succeeded regarding prices, consumption, stability. But its weak side has been the monetary side.

This is difficult to prove because there was a danger that \$900 million would escape from the economy. The strict monetary policy prevented this. In general, the shekel remained stable, it didn't run to the dollar. The main theoretical argument between the Bank of Israel and the monetarists was over the means by which the volume of credit should be restricted; all agreed it should be restricted, whether by high interest or control of credit. In the end the majority was persuaded that the more correct method was to exercise control over interest rates rather than over volume of credit.

Let's move on to the subject of economic growth. Mod'a has argued that he was the one who proposed growth, and was subsequently surprised to hear that you then proposed the shift to growth. Then we heard that you proposed growth in the construction sector, with development projects such as the Canion in Bat Yam and Mamilla in Jerusalem. Is this really growth or, as Mod'a maintained, to help firms close to the Labour Party?

Conceptually, growth means... that every year 40-50,000 youngsters join the economy. Growth must make places of work for them. There is no economy that doesn't plan years ahead. Then there is the problem of giving credit to the productive sector... There is need to give the productive sector credit to enable it to function [at acceptable rates of interest]. No body can pay 60-70 per cent interest. It is madness. Then there was an argument about how much money should be set aside for growth. At first I said \$450 million. That was criticised. Now I can say that we are going for \$650-700 million, maybe even more.

Then, there is the construction industry. There is a difference between allowing construction firms to recover and creating employment. Take Eilat. The airport is in the heart of the city. The time has come to build a new airport, north of the city. The hotel owners are willing to invest in this. If so why delay this? Take Mamilla... there is unemployment in general in construction. It is a \$200 million project; there are investors. Why delay? Or take a

third project, that of the Bahais. They are willing to invest \$100 million, they don't ask for a penny from the government. They will create 250,000 guest days in Haifa. These projects approach \$1 billion, the investments are from outside, bureaucratic and administrative problems are causing delays. I will call together the ministers concerned and get matters moving.

In general, economics is not a mechanical matter... not a matter of two plus two is four. If that was all, anyone could put together an economic plan and implement it. The problem is how to take several groups of people and to get them to work together to make a coalition.

During the past year and a half, you succeeded in pushing some measures through the cabinet and achieving certain things. In six months' time you will transfer the prime ministership to Mr. Shamir. Do you think that you will be able to safeguard these achievements?

I cannot give you guarantees. I won't say that the rotation is desirable. I say that this was the only thing we could do in the light of the 1984 election results.

It has been said that a major consideration on your part in the Mod'a affair was the matter of your credibility. Was this so?

No. I think those who accuse me of being untrustworthy have to demonstrate their own trustworthiness. No one has ever succeeded in showing an instance of my being untrustworthy. A prime minister, who warns his ministers two or three times, must act if they don't listen to his warnings. And in the law there is collective responsibility of ministers. And each minister is responsible by law for his ministry's activities to the prime minister...

What sort of public impression was created by the Mod'a affair?

I don't know. I can't act only in line with what impression [it creates]. And I could ask: if I hadn't acted as I did, what sort of impression would have been created?

Do you want to take over the finance ministry portfolio after the rotation?

No.

Do you intend that a Labour minister get the finance portfolio after rotation?

I don't see that this is worth raising at all. The Likud won't allow it. Not only regarding me. It's not worth making a fuss. We agreed [in 1984] on a division of labour; it is best to honour that agreement.

Are you for changing the electoral system?

Yes. I see the present system as the source of all our political troubles. But I don't see a chance of changing this now.

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Shamir: No revolution after rotation

Vice premier takes a look at coalition's future

BENNY MORRIS and ASHER WALLFISH/Jerusalem Post Reporters

VICE PREMIER and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was relaxed and affable when *The Jerusalem Post* interviewed him in his bureau in Jerusalem on Monday.

He seemed to have got over most of the traumatic effects of the ill-fated Herut party convention.

He took a philosophical view of what lies in store for the national unity coalition.

And he was readier than usual to give the public a glimpse of his personal attitudes to politics and politicians.

Our questions ranged over the national and the party scene.

How will the key aims of the national unity government be defined when your two-year term as prime minister comes around?

Even though the situation in Lebanon, for instance, has improved by comparison with 1984, our security problems there haven't all been solved. And where the dangers of war exist, we have to exercise our deterrent.

We have to reach a serious improvement of relations with Egypt; a genuine peace. I always say that peace is a process, and not a situation brought about in a one-shot *zabang*. Peace cannot even be brought about by a peace treaty, however great a historical event that might be.

Israel also has to bring about a resumption of the negotiating process envisaged at Camp David, which I believe is still the most realistic way to solve the problems with our neighbours to the East.

And we also have to bring about close relations with the two major international blocs.

Whatever the national unity government has achieved so far, still has to be buttressed. We have yet to make progress towards economic growth, and a favourable balance of payments. We still have a long way to go.

In your two-year term, do you intend to take initiatives, or sit and wait for things to happen?

You have to take initiatives, but at the same time you mustn't be deterred if you don't get an immediate response. The aim should be to promote Israel's interests and obtain the consent of others to Israel's positions.

It's very easy to win smiles and applause for making concessions to



"Public opinion polls indicate that the public strongly supports... the national unity coalition." (Rahamin Israeli)

the positions of others. That's what you have to be careful of. I am very proud, for example, of what Israel has achieved in the sphere of relations with the United States. And I am particularly proud of the fact that we paid nothing in return for those achievements, in terms of Israel's own interests. I should like to draw a parallel from that, to other spheres. I mean that we have to achieve the maximum for our own interests without having to make any concessions. We have to get others to accept our positions without giving up what is most important for us.

What conclusions have you drawn from the achievements or the errors of the present prime minister which you expect to apply during your own tenure after October?

You need not expect any revolutionary changes after the rotation because the government after all will be the same government with the same programme and it will have to function according to the same basic policy guidelines. Naturally everyone injects his own personal nuances, his own style, but in the main the path is the same.

The public opinion polls indicate that the public strongly supports the continued existence of the national



Foreign Minister Shamir gives a glimpse of his personal attitudes. (Joel Fishman)

unity coalition. They see it as a guarantee for the avoidance of pitfalls thanks to the internal equilibrium between the two big parties. They see it as a guarantee that the leadership will not be dragged willy-nilly into extremism, to one side or another. The public likes stability. It wants to feel calm. It therefore sees the national unity government as the formula for stability and the guarantee of stability. In today's France, even, where the so-called *cohabitation* between a Socialist president and a non-Socialist parliament is only a few weeks old, the polls show a majority of the public preferring *cohabitation*. The leaders of the left and the right say great care must be taken to ensure that the public does

not lay the blame on the leaders of either side, for violating the *cohabitation*.

Can you envisage a possibility that the rotation putting you into the premiership will not come about, in the wake of something like the *Taba* issue, or talks with Jordan?

Anything is possible. I would not speculate. If rotation should not come about, it would be bad for Israel though not for me, personally. Anything can happen here in Israel, and in political life generally.

When you say it would not be bad for you personally, does that mean you have grown tired of politics?

No, I'm not tired. But I don't understand the people who pursue the post of premier, the most difficult post of all imaginable.

Who are you referring to?

Ask anyone. I'm referring to the people who say: It's my ambition to be premier... I deserve to be premier... why mention names... but I personally do not see where the enjoyment is... the great satisfaction.

Everyone in politics has some sense of national responsibility which dictates certain actions to him. But when I consider a politician, I ask myself what makes him tick? Is it mainly a concern for the general good? For the interests of the State? Or is it his personal ambition? No man is totally free of personal ambition. Or personal calculations. The question is: which has priority. In politics, every man should be judged, in my view, according to his prime motive.

What motive impelled you personally into politics?

I found it hard to sit on the sidelines, and I felt it was my duty to take part, and try to influence events. When *The Jerusalem Post* first interviewed me in 1973, the paper did not dream I would be prime minister one day.

Do you feel that the crisis inside the Herut party should be solved by a confrontation between the competing elements?

Since I am forced to seek a way out of the impasse, I shall not cleave dogmatically to one principle or another. I never like internal confrontations in the party, if the desired results can be achieved otherwise.

Do you sometimes feel ashamed at the sort of thing which took place in the Herut convention? Do you ever feel a revulsion towards the party?

I feel myself responsible. It's my party. Can you feel ashamed of your own family? Things have to be put right. It's a matter of overcoming those problems. True, I was very angry, and it caused me suffering. I was dejected. It was a fact of life, and things like that have to be prevented. I look at it from a practical point of view.

We have to solve the internal problems inside Herut with all possible speed, because their solution will enable consolidation of the political power on which I base myself. The absence of a solution weakens the party.

Did the events involving former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i delay the merger between the Herut and Liberal parties?

Not at all. The events have brought the two parties closer together because they fought the same battle. During the crisis, no differences were felt between the two.

The media got the impression that Moda'i accused Herut of not fully protecting his interests.

He makes no accusations. As far as I know he is for a rapid merger, and he acts in that direction. His resolve for it is not any weaker.

Do any of your colleagues in Herut hesitate about the merger?

There are no hesitations. But



"I found it hard to sit on the sidelines." (Rahamin Israeli)

there are differences of opinion inside Herut about procedures during the transition period, for instance over the selection of candidates for the Knesset list. Some people raised the question of whether "all vote for all," even during the transition period when a quota is supposed to be set aside for each wing, on the list.

Has Israel not wasted a whole year, in its relations with Egypt? It's said in the Prime Minister's Office that, a year ago, Egypt had already agreed to the principal elements of normalization, in return for Israel's consent to international arbitration on *Taba*?

That is incorrect. It is Egypt which wasted seven entire years in its relations with Israel. Had Egypt not severed contacts over autonomy, we would have stood today at the expiry of the five-year interim phase envisaged at Camp David, and been faced

objective. They have their own interests. We don't object to their taking part. They are doing their best, but I wouldn't exactly accuse them of being "objective." I have no complaints about them.

It is very rare in international experience for the parties not to reach agreement on the text of the question which the parties submit to the arbitrators. And in those rare cases when they cannot reach agreement, each party submits his own question to the arbitrators. Israel is ready to do that. But Egypt is not even ready for that. Even though the Egyptians claim they are one hundred per cent sure, that their case is just, over *Taba* all of a sudden they got scared that because of some turn of phrase, they could lose *Taba*.

Israel has not been playing for time. We often proposed a date for a meeting and the Egyptians put us off.

Do you still stress the conciliation procedure, as firmly as before?

When I see the difficulties in negotiations over the arbitration procedure, I see that I was right to push for conciliation. I preferred conciliation, because arbitration contains an element of confrontation. The arbitrators are a court, as it were. So each side does its best to present evidence and documents advantageous to its case. Each side tries to demolish the other side's arguments.

The procedure of conciliation is different, because both sides make an effort to reach agreement. Under the peace agreement, Israel said it preferred conciliation in the event of differences of opinion, so as to have as few confrontations as possible. The alternative, as we can see today, creates tensions which we could do without.

What is your position over unilateral autonomy for the Gaza Strip which has come up in discussions with the United States?

I oppose it. I do not believe that it is practicable. Autonomy can not be unilateral. It has to result from consent. If you impose a solution on someone which he does not want, it's not autonomy. I disagree totally with the idea of having any partnership role for Egypt because Egypt has no status in that issue. We have to renew the negotiations envisaged at Camp David, and reach autonomy in that framework. We are committed to negotiating with Egypt, with Jordan and with the representatives of the Palestine Arabs. I don't believe there is any tactical prospect of Egypt sharing the implementation, however.

Where do you stand with regard to the findings on the Ras Burka killings? Sinai last fall (when five Israelis were slain by an Egyptian security man)?

We are still not satisfied. All we got was the court records of the trial. We have still not got an explanation of what happened after the shots were fired. Why was medical attention refused to the five Israelis who lost their lives as a consequence? For has there been any progress on compensation for the bereaved families, despite our request.

What progress has there been towards relations between Israel and Poland?

The change is that people are talking a lot about the idea, on all sides, and we are acting on the basis laid down in my conversations with the Polish Foreign Minister in New York. But I can't say anything specific because we have to be cautious.

READERS' LETTERS

AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRANTS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - Certain statements were made with regard to the relationship between the chairman of the Zionist Federation of Australia, Mr. Mark Leibler, and the Australian community in Israel in one of the articles in your Israel-Australia supplement of April 3.

The link has always been strong and positive throughout the years to the extent of providing funds and assistance for Australian immigrants to settle in Israel. This is shown by the behind-the-scenes action of Mr. Leibler for the benefit of Australian immigrants whose Australian

citizenship was in question. His Trojan efforts were appreciated by all those affected, and on behalf of all of these, I would like to thank him.

With regard to the future, the intention to introduce an Australian section into the British Olim Society framework will only add to the facilities available to the Australian immigrant. All of this reflects only a small part of the warm relationship between the federation and the organizations dealing with Australian immigrants.

LEN TERRY
Managing Director
British Olim Society
Tel Aviv.

POLITICIANS' PRIORITIES

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I have long been an admirer of David Levy, the man who has used the obviously enormous talents with which he was born to raise himself from his humble beginnings to eminence which he enjoys today. Even though I can understand but cannot personally accept his political stance, I was extremely disappointed to read that he was not prepared to accept, or was dissatisfied with, the agreement to end the

coalition crisis "as it was not to the Likud's advantage." This only serves to confirm my uncomfortable conviction that our politicians, patriotic as they may be, are obsessed only with three priorities: 1. their personal ambitions for prestige and position and the belief that they have the answers to our country's problems; 2. their party; 3. their country - in that order of precedence. MAX POTASH
Netanya.

INVERTS

of the grandchildren or any other close relative of the late Sheikh al-Ja'abari has converted to Judaism.

The al-Ja'abari clan numbers several thousands and it is absurd to assume that every person bearing his surname is a direct relation of the late Sheikh al-Ja'abari.

I trust that this letter will clarify the matter once and for all, and that the unfortunate report in the above-mentioned edition of *The Jerusalem Post* will be the last of its kind in your paper and in the Israeli press.

J. ABO TOAMEH
Advocate
Jerusalem.

RABBINIC MISSION

Israel's history. I want to correct one inaccuracy, however. The rabbis represented the four movements in American Jewish life: Reconstructionist, Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. As one of two graduates of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College who participated in the conference on terrorism, I felt slighted because my movement was not in the list of participants.

Rabbi ELLIOT SKIDDELL
Plantation, Florida.

JAPAN: THE HIROHITO YEARS

Newsweek

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Shooting to Kill

Did the U.S. Go Too Far—Or Not Far Enough?

The Terr. Strike

An Interview \ Margaret Thatcher

ON SALE NOW

GET TO GRIPS WITH IT.

SHORT, LONG-TERM HOLIDAY

هكذا من الأصل

Surviving with a prayer

Max Melamet reviews the troubled history of the Jews in Morocco

FEWER THAN 18,000 Jews live in Morocco, which in 1947, according to the French census of that year, had about 230,000 Jews. The *Encyclopaedia Judaica* estimated the number at 265,000 in 1948.

Ancient legend has it that the Jewish connection with Morocco goes back to the days of Solomon and the Phoenicians, when the Jews came to Sala (Chella) in the vicinity of Sale (Rabat) in order to buy gold in large quantities.

The earliest epigraphic evidence, however, on the presence of Jews in Morocco comes from the second century of the present era.

Another legend is that the Berbers of the Maghreb are the descendants of Canaanites. This, to quote Andre Chouraqui, would make the Berbers cousins of the Jews by race and language and sympathetic to Judaism.

Ibn Khaldun, the great 14th-century Arabic historian, names a number of large Moroccan Berber tribes who were converted to Judaism before the Arab conquest.

The Arab conquest of Morocco and its conversion to Islam did not bring about the elimination of the Jews or the Judaized Berbers. When Idris seized power in 788 C.E. he forcibly converted many of these Berbers to Islam. After his death, however, there remained some Jewish or Judaized tribes in the area of Fez.

The fanatical Almohads who swept across North Africa and Moslem Spain (1146-48) came close to putting an end to Jewish life in the lands of western Islam. Jews were given the choice between conver-

sion, exile and death. Those who did not perish — along with Christians and Moslems — either fled to Egypt and Christian Spain or accepted Islam outwardly but secretly adhered to Judaism.

Not until the Merinid dynasty replaced the Almohads in 1269 did Jews return to Morocco in substantial numbers.

In the revolution in which the last Merinid sultan and his Jewish prime minister were assassinated, many Jews lost their lives and many others submitted to forcible conversion. When Muhammad al-Shaykh came to power in 1471, these forced converts were authorized to return to Judaism. He declared a warm welcome to the Spanish and Portuguese refugees who arrived after 1492 and 1496.

BEGINNING with the capture of Ceuta in 1415, Portugal initiated a policy of expansion on the African mainland. Communities of Jewish refugees from Spain settled in such ports as Azemmour and Safi.

During the 16th century, Marranos from the Iberian Peninsula, the Madeira Islands, the Azores, the Canary Islands, and even the Americas arrived in Morocco. In Tetuan, Fez, Meknes and Marrakesh there were centres for reconversion to Judaism.

During the reign of Mulay Ismail (1672-1727), the Maymerans, the Toledanos and the Ben-Attars all enjoyed the sultan's favours. Mulay Ismail's death was followed by lawlessness and upheaval which lasted until Mulay Muhammad bin Abdallah became the sultan in 1757.

During his reign the conditions of Jews improved throughout the country.

When Mulay al-Yazid succeeded Muhammad in 1790, the fortune of the Jews plummeted. All the Jews felt his hatred. Communities were given over to the army for plunder, murder and rape. Only al-Yazid's death in 1792 saved the Jews from further horrors.

His successor established ghettos in the wealthiest communities. A few economically indispensable Jewish families in Mogador were permitted to live in the residential quarter. From these families he chose his diplomats, his bankers and his counsellors.

The havoc wrought by devastating epidemics in 1799 and 1818 caused some of these families to emigrate. Some went to London where they became prominent in Jewish society. One of the Levy-Yuly family emigrated to the United States where his son, David (Levy) Yulee, after representing Florida in the 27th and 28th Congress, became the first Jew to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

INCREASING penetration by European powers in Morocco in the 19th century resulted in greater activity of Jews in the economic and diplomatic fields. Until 1875 consular representatives in Moroccan towns were almost all Jews.

The favoritism shown to these Jews by European powers led to their being accused by the Moroccan people of being the agents of European influence in Morocco, and in some areas the situation of the Jews became precarious.

Toward the end of 1863, Sir Moses Montefiore travelled to Morocco with a delegation of British Jews, among them Haim Guedalla, who was of Moroccan descent and related by marriage to Sir Moses, with the hope of obtaining from the sultan some improvement in the legal and social position of Morocco's Jews.

The sultan issued a royal decree declaring his intention to treat his Jews with complete justice, and to protect them from oppression. But after the mission left Morocco, the sultan quickly issued another decree which virtually nullified the first.

In 1912 the Treaty of Fez established a French protectorate over Morocco. The same year an agreement between France and Spain defined the position of the Spanish zone in relation to the French Protectorate for Tangier. This situation continued until Morocco achieved independence in 1956.

Under Spanish and French domination the Jews enjoyed complete freedom in all matters relating to their religion, traditions and occupations, but their political status was unaltered.

This situation proved a blessing during Vichy rule in Morocco, when the sultan protected his Jewish subjects against, to quote Bernard Lewis, the malevolence of the Vichy authorities and their Nazi masters and mentors.

In 1862 the Alliance Israelite Universelle founded its first schools in Morocco. Its educational system produced a new social class, a new middle class. Many members of the new social class became very rich as a



Holiday feast at a private home in Rabat.

(Ben Barber)

result of the rapid economic development of the country. Wealthy Jews were a small minority, however. Most Moroccan Jews were poor.

IN THE LATE 1940s the exodus of Moroccan Jews began. It had first gathered momentum in 1947 and 1948 under the emotional stimulus of the approaching creation of a Jewish state and continued, legally or illegally, Hassan II, when he ascended the throne in 1961, made emigration to Israel legal.

After the 1967 Six Day War, emigrants from Morocco increasingly included wealthy and educated Jews — among them lawyers, doctors, engineers, Chouraqui says, however, that "the well-educated, the affluent, the trained technicians, the intellectuals and the businessmen among them (the emigrants), like their counterparts in other countries, chose to make their homes in the West."

According to figures released at the first World Assembly of Moroccan Jewry held recently in Montreal, the number of Moroccan-born Jews

in that city is about 30,000. In the U.S. there are said to be about 15,000. Many members of the new Moroccan Jewish diaspora have made their mark in Jewish and general society.

The main impression one has when surveying the activities of the small Moroccan Jewish community is of the dedicated efforts by its leadership to preserve its Jewish heritage and to pass it on to the next generation.

ABOUT TWO THIRDS of Morocco's Jews live in Casablanca. Five communities — Marrakesh, Rabat, Meknes, Fez, Tangier — range in size from about 800 to about 1,000; there range from about 100 to about 5,000 and the rest have 100 or less members.

Each remaining Jewish community has a communal organization, the Committee, and all these are united in a coordinating body, the Council of the Jewish Communities of Morocco, a member organization of the World Jewish Congress.

The Council is the representative organ of the Jewish community in

matters relating to the institutions of government. It is headed by David Amar, who is, in his own right, an important figure in Morocco.

The schools established by the Alliance Israelite Universelle have since 1960 been carried on by Itihad-Maroc. Curriculum and staff have changed, however, to accommodate the increasing number of Arab students in the schools. The Moroccan government contributes financial assistance. O.T., Otzar Hatorah and the Lubavitch movement also operate schools that have government support.

Moroccan Jews enjoy unfettered religious freedom, as well as freedom to emigrate if they so desire. For what is, after all, an aging and diminishing community. Moroccan Jewry, with financial support from the outside, maintains an impressive array of religious, social, cultural and welfare institutions. Particularly impressive is the care bestowed on youth.

The writer is editor of the *World Jewish Congress's* News and Views, from which the article is extracted.

Warning from Jakobovits

LOS ANGELES LETTER / Tom Tugend

FOR THE first time in its history, the Jewish people is in danger of self-liquidation, and American Jewry is part of the problem rather than part of the solution, according to the Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, Sir Immanuel Jakobovits.

Jakobovits gave his pessimistic appraisal in Los Angeles during a wide-ranging interview with *The Jerusalem Post* last month, at the end of a two-week speaking tour of the U.S. and Canada.

Speaking of "historic peaks" in Jewish thought and literature during periods of greatest suffering and the lack of spiritual and intellectual contributions of the Jews of the New World, Jakobovits said:

"I can't see Los Angeles or America creating a niche in Jewish history. The Jewish communities here may be vibrant and generous, but they are not creating new movements, new literature or new insights."

Jakobovits pointed to assimilation, intermarriage, low birth rates and a pervasive sense of self-satisfaction in America, and especially California, as the paving stones on the road to self-destruction. The survivors, he said, will be "the most devout and dedicated" of the Orthodox, who have "made an amazing comeback" since losing 90 per cent of their number worldwide in the Holocaust.

"What we are likely to see is self-liquidation by the majority and renewal by the minority," Jakobovits predicted.

He perceived "a glimmer of hope" in the spread of the day-school movement and in intensive Jewish education, which "has to start 20 years before the child is born," i.e., while the future parents themselves are growing up.

Though British Jewry, whose number has dropped from 450,000 to 350,000 in two decades, faces some of the same demographic threats as American Jewry, Jakobovits said, the Jewish communities of Britain are "still staunchly traditional, though perhaps less enterprising," than their American counterparts. "Our commitment to Israel is much greater than that of American Jews, and proportionate to our numbers, we send six times as many people on aliya as the Americans," he said.

As a leading spokesman of the moderate Orthodox position, Jakobovits described the present conflict between the secular and ultra-Orthodox in Israel as a "very grave danger which may have reached the point of no return." He assigned part of the blame to the most volatile and militant segments of American Orthodoxy and their non-Orthodox allies.

He said that Knesset Member Meir Kahane and the Lubavitcher movement "are American phenomena, while Gush Emunim is largely supported by American extremist forces. The fiercest opposition to religious moderation comes from Americans."



Immanuel Jakobovits (Peter Fisher)

Moderate Orthodoxy, he said, finds itself under siege, "with attacks coming from the left and the right."

But he refused to cede the field to either extreme. "Don't write off the middle ground," he said, declaring that "more people, especially those who are educated at both yeshivot and secular universities, are searching for a synthesis that shuns both the secular and the ultra-Orthodox extremes."

The *Jewish World* page is edited by Moshe Kohn.

WHEN THE Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations gets an invitation from the President of the United States, the shuttle from New York to Washington adds an extra section.

The initiated know how to understand those invitations. When one or at most two from an organization receive an invitation, then the meeting has substantial issues on the agenda. When there are four or more, as was the case last month, the experienced president will not extend himself to attend and uses the opportunity to reward loyal organizational workers from the Washington metropolitan area. The experienced president utilized the day in Washington for other purposes as well.

On the plane down to Washington, we heard that President Reagan would appear and his subject would be Nicaragua. When we entered the small auditorium in the Executive Building of the White House complex, we were handed a State Department booklet linking the Sandinistas with the P.L.O. The anti-Semitic history of the Sandinista regime is summarized in the booklet.

There were some excellent and informative briefings by important U.S. officials on the Middle East. But the main feature was Reagan himself, who deserves the sobriquet, "The Great Communicator."

After the initial obeisance to a Jewish audience of support for Israel, Reagan launched his appeal for support of the aid package to Nicaragua.

Even those of us who favour aid to anti-Communist groups were troubled by the session. There is no doubt that Nicaragua is in the Communist orbit. Israel was one of Somoza's arms suppliers, but this argument does not justify the suppres-

Reagan invitation

NEW YORK LETTER / Louis Bernstein

sion of the anti-Somoza democratic elements or the expulsion of the tiny Jewish community, which was of no consequence in the fabric of Nicaraguan life.

But whether the President's Conference should allow itself to be used in such a fashion on an issue that does not directly concern Israel is a vexing question. There are many Jews committed to Israel who oppose aid to the Contras and could make an excellent case for that position. Yet, how could the Presidents Conference reject an invitation from a President who has done so much for Israel? However, some of Israel's best friends in Congress are on the other side.

Happily, the issue didn't flare into a full blown debate and it is being discussed seriously but impassionately.

NEW YORK JEWS have been concerned in recent weeks. A political scandal of graft and fraud has involved some of the city's leading political figures, all Jews.

Donald Manes, president of the Borough of Queens and chairman of the all-powerful Democratic Party committee, who committed suicide, was the most important person named in the indictment. Stanley Friedman, boss of the Bronx County Democratic Party machine, was hauled into court in handcuffs to plead to an indictment charging him with fraud. Others indicted are Jewish politicians who became city commissioners and heads of departments. They were familiar faces at synagogue functions, Bond functions, Jewish National Fund dinners.

Jews are concerned whether the

wholesale fraud will reflect on the largest Jewish community in the world. The issue will be exacerbated during the forthcoming trials, which are sure to receive massive local news-media coverage.

So far, the concern seems unwarranted. A similar fear recently swept Maryland Jewry, when Jewish financiers were found to be responsible, in a large measure, for the failure of banking institutions, causing hardships to the public. A poll commissioned by the *Baltimore Jewish Times* seemed to indicate that the Jews were more concerned with potential anti-Semitism than warranted by the non-Jewish perception.

The same is probably true in New York. But the fact that American Jews are sensitive to their neighbours' attitude reinforces the concept that Jews still are responsible for other Jews in their own eyes. Such anxiety is symptomatic of the Jew in the *Galut* (Exile), even if the *Galut* is paved with gold.

Rabbi Bernstein is president of the (Orthodox) Rabbinical Council of America.

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Approximate time of return to hotels — 10.00 p.m.

TO SECURE YOUR SEAT ON THE COACH (also those who reserved seats through the J.L.A. in London) please telephone the J.L.A. Tel Aviv office 03-267052, 03-265244 on: Tuesday, April 22, Wednesday, April 23 or Friday, April 25 (between 8.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.). Cost per person: £10 (or NIS 20) — which also covers lunch and tea. Please pay our representative on the bus. Due to the limited number of places, regrettably, we must limit this study tour to BRITISH tourists only.

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Supermarkets entering the killing ground

Cut-throat competition sparks credit battle, aids consumers

YITZHAK OKED/Jerusalem Post Reporter

THE long-term credit that a number of supermarket chains are extending to their customers is only the beginning of a war between the chains that will continue after Pessah.

A Jerusalem Post survey found that the Co-op, Shekem, Supersol, Hypershuk and Mazon Min Hakibutz Ve Hantoshav chains are all battling for a larger portion of the market. The question is how many will survive the war.

Observers believe that Israelis are changing their buying habits, moving from small grocery shops to the large supermarkets. This trend has been going on for more than two decades but during the past year, there has been a remarkable jump in the number of supermarket shoppers, caused mainly by the opening of American-style malls like the Canion Ayalon and Tnuva's Rav Mecher.

During the past year, there has also been a breakthrough in supermarkets' closing hours. They used to close, like other stores in the country, at 7 p.m. on weekdays and would reopen on Saturday night only on special occasions, like before holidays. Now the Supersol at the Canion Ayalon remains open till

midnight and the Hypershuk at the Rav Mecher stays open nearly to the same hour. After the holiday Co-op is planning to keep several of its stores open around the clock.

THE FIRST round in the "credit war" was fired by Supersol on March 15 when it offered shoppers making purchases of NIS 50 or more and NIS 100 or more in their Hypermarkets credit till May 2. Three weeks later, they extended this campaign, giving their customers who pay either by Visa or postdated cheque credit till June 2.

Benjamin Gaon, the general manager of the Co-op chain, told The Jerusalem Post that they were sucked into this. Customers at Co-op markets who make purchases for a minimum of NIS 40 or 80 NIS at the Hyperstores can get credit until June 2 by paying with Isracard or postdated cheques.

Gaon admits that because of the price freeze on most commodities the prices are more or less the same in most chains. "Thus, Supersol

looked for a gimmick to attract more customers, and found it in long-term credit. But I'm afraid that this kassach (cut-throat) competition to attract customers will continue after the holidays."

Benjamin Mor, the general manager of the Tnuva Hypershuk chain, said that his stores had not joined the long-term credit war. "We are continuing to give credit only till the second of each month. Instead of extended credit, we will continue to offer our customers products at lower prices. According to the present inflation rate of about two per cent, by receiving two-month credit customers are getting about a 4 per cent reduction. Some of our products have been reduced in prices of up to 22 per cent."

SHEKEM is also participating in the credit war, also against their will. They are offering customers who

make big purchases credit till June 2. Members of the regular army, police and security services receive an additional two weeks of credit.

A Shekem official told The Jerusalem Post that they are continuing to sell goods at low prices and are confident that this, together with improved service, keep their customers shopping at Shekem.

This official pointed out that since the price freeze was instituted in July 1985, customers are no longer stampeding into the stores and stockpiling. "But just as our customers are no longer in a state of shock, fearing new prices every day, we are not going to panic because of the new situation and will deal with this matter in the best way we know. At present we do not intend keeping our stores open after 8 p.m. We intend to improve our service, open new and larger stores and keep prices low."

The cut-throat competition has reduced profits. Mor of Tnuva said that this was the reason they were only giving credit for one month, and prices were being reduced to a level that would leave them a small profit.

David Wainshal, president of Supersol, was more optimistic believing that despite the stiff competition his chain will show a profit at the end of the year. He claims that only about 25 per cent of Israelis buy in chain stores. "We might be taking a few customers from each other, but a large portion of new customers are people who had never bought in supermarkets."

Gaon of the Co-op chain disagrees with Wainshal. He claims that about 40 per cent of Israelis are chain store customers. He believes that competition is reducing their profitability.

Since the price freeze, Gaon claims, all the chains have felt the

pinch and, struggling to survive, are attempting to take customers away from other chains. He says that each chain store ended 1985 with pre-tax profits of between one-half and 1 per cent of revenues adjusted to inflation. He claims that if the present competition and low rate of inflation continue, all or nearly all the chains will hardly break even or at the most will show profits of one quarter of 1 per cent.

THE CUT-THROAT competition among the large chain stores is also being felt in small grocery stores and small, private supermarkets. Many are giving at least 30 days of credit from the day goods are purchased.

Mordechai Kreiner, vice president in charge of marketing at Supersol, noted that it was Co-Op that started giving credit to its customers via Isracard.

Wainshal added the consumer is profiting from the present situation, "and that is how it should be. We are investing heavily to improve our ser-

vice since we want those who have discovered our stores to become regular customers."

BUT ARE the customers really profiting from the present situation? Ruth Kringel of the Histadrut's Central Consumer Authority believes that there is some truth in what the leaders of the chain stores are saying.

"We checked a 'basket' of food bought for Pessah. Its price has increased by 118 per cent compared to last year. This is more or less equal to the increase of the cost-of-living index during this past year. There are no great differences in prices between the chains. So I can understand why they decided on a credit war."

"As a consumer expert, I have mixed feelings. Free credit is wonderful, but I think that it would be much better for the consumer if instead of such long-term credit the supermarkets would have given us the savings in lower prices."

"Also not all consumers can withstand the temptation of easy credit, and I fear that there will be some who on June 2 will find themselves extremely 'overdrafted'."

Paris jumps into lead in 'map wars'

THE EASY-TO-READ tourist maps installed under glass in various parts of Jerusalem in the past year are very helpful, but the municipality of Paris has gone one giant step further.

It has installed a number of electronic address finders around the city. Named Situ, the computer allows the tourist - or the confused local resident - to type in any street address in Paris on the sidewalk terminals. It then issues a printout explaining how to get there - either on foot or by public transport.

A dozen Situ terminals have been installed so far, says Popular Science magazine (April issue), and if the service is appreciated, more will follow.

SAFFRON, the spice worth its weight in gold (at about \$1,000 per kilo wholesale), is not cultivated in Israel. It is one of the few crops whose cultivation has ceased in technologically advanced countries.

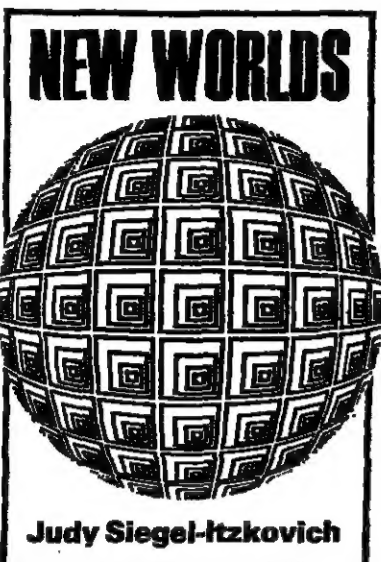
But saffron, in addition to adding taste and yellow colour to foods, is also known for its medicinal uses. It contains a cardiac stimulant and it apparently also reduces fatty deposits in the blood vessels. Its modern therapeutic uses, however, remain largely unexplored.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's department of agricultural botany is now trying to develop new techniques for growing the rare saffron crocus and for mechanizing the picking and curing of the spice.

Since the spice consists of the dried red stigmas picked from the crocus, cultivation for commercial purposes requires a great deal of human labour. The Hebrew University botanists have studied how to plant, harvest, separate and dry the plants. They have succeeded in developing techniques for growing masses of saffron crocuses that flower simultaneously, and for growing several crops in one season. A prototype harvesting instrument is being designed and built in cooperation with Volcani Institute engineers.

They have also built a device for separating the flower stigmas from the rest of the plant. Field testing and further development are planned.

THE DEVICE may look ghoulish, but it is practical. It is an artificial mouth that chews, grinds and chops like the real thing - in order to test the strength of fillings, dentures and bridges. In one day, according to the London Observer, the \$375,000 mouth can subject dental materials to a year's wear and tear, speeding the time it usually takes to conduct research and cutting costs. Developed by a team from the University of Minnesota school of dentistry, it uses real or artificial saliva to moisten the teeth,



Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

which are subjected to realistic pressures and chewing motions. Anti-plaque chewing gum will be tested on the teeth, and dental decay will be studied by feeding the "mouth" with various foods.

Speaking of teeth, a recent seminar conducted by the Israel Dental Association presented innovations in dental treatments. One is an acrylic substance that in many cases can glue false teeth in place so they can function like natural teeth. Transplants of teeth were also discussed. Research is aiming at preserving the natural teeth of the elderly, thus reducing the number of removable bridges they will need. This is of great psychological benefit, said the experts, because people with false-teeth problems tend to isolate themselves from society out of embarrassment.

CAMELS equipped with solar-powered refrigerators are carrying vaccines to remote areas in Chad. Unicef, the UN Children's Fund, has sent the special cooling devices to the outlying regions so that children can be vaccinated against deadly diseases. One out of every five children in that country dies before the age of one, mainly from such diseases. Since vaccines deteriorate in high temperatures, the solar-powered refrigerators are viewed as a practical way to preserve their effectiveness.

TECHNIQUES used to find water sources in Israel's Arava have led to plans to increase groundwater resources in Chile's northern desert region. The plan was drawn up by Prof. Mordechai Magaritz of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, in cooperation with Chilean colleagues headed by engineer Humbert Pena.

Previous research indicated that water could be piped from the high Andes, which would have involved great technological problems and expense. Now Prof. Magaritz has shown the feasibility of getting most of the necessary water from drillings in the Pampa del Tamarugal lowlands, since they contain low-salt underground water that seeps down from the mountain ranges. The professor was sent recently to Chile by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency.

Firm gets the scoop on competition

Restaurant chain cashes in on health food

MICHAEL YUDELMAN/Jerusalem Post Reporter

when its success generated a demand for more vegetarian, cholesterol-free food.

The factory in Yehud is probably the only one in the world to produce sausages and milk in one room - and have a kosher certificate from the local rabbinate. The milk is from soy beans and the sausages from wheat, both, of course, completely parve.

Here, the soy beans are ground and processed. Some of the resulting cubes being made into ice-cream, according to a secret formula. The whole-wheat pitted and rolls are baked for the factory by a kosher Ramat Hasharon bakery, according to Eternity's recipe. The quiches offered at the restaurants - mushroom, spinach and vegetable - are also made here, as well as the burgers, tofufel (falafel balls from tofu and wheat germ, unfried) and tofu sticks.

"We wanted to break the myth that vegetarian food has to taste bland. You don't have to eat like a rabbit to be healthy," says Blackwell. "So we invented lots of dishes, with spices and salad dressing and desserts and ice."

The Eternity restaurant at 60 Ben Yehuda Street in Tel Aviv is quite busy, especially at lunchtime, when all three tables inside and the two on the sidewalk are full for several hours.

Kiyah, who has been running the establishment since it opened two years ago, claims that its prices can't be beaten. "Where else can you get a large glass of herbal tea for 60 agorot or half a kilo of ice-cream for NIS 3.20 to 3.90, depending on the kind?" she asks. A platter of vegetable steak, with potatoes, carrots, salad, roll and cake costs NIS 8, a vegetable hot dog in a roll with chips, NIS 2.

"We invented many of the recipes

The Economic Pages are edited by Shlomo Maoz.

in Dimona, but some were brought from the United States," Kiyah says. The tofufel and pitted and vegetarian shawarma are local inventions, all based on the Black Hebrews' diet, which is devoid of all cholesterol, dairy products, animal fats, eggs and white sugar. A "chocolate" cake with icing, made from carob powder, is also on the menu here.

THE DIKLA health-food store at Tel Aviv's King George Street has a franchise to operate an Eternity snack bar, featuring a range of their dishes as well as ice-creams. At lunchtime, it was filled with students of the nearby nutrition and natural medicine school.

"No, I'm not vegetarian, but the food here is great," one student said. "I like the sausages and sandwiches, and taste this tea. I had them mix it with apple juice for me," she added.

Shop owner Haim Hochstadt, who claims to have the only store in Israel to combine health products with a snack bar, proudly points at the kosher certificate applying to the Eternity food from the Yehud factory.

"We're flanked by shawarma and such restaurants, which give people heartburn. They come here to relieve it. How can you compare a whole-wheat sandwich to the white cotton wool bread and tasteless pitot served in other places?" he asked.

JOHN IRVING, who left the country several months ago due to the hassle over his conversion, sold out his share in Eternity, according to Blackwell. He was vague about the Betwo Corporation owners, and said only that they were American Jews. There are plans for expansion in Tel Aviv and throughout the country.

"We want Israel to be for Eternity and Eternity to be for Israel," Blackwell asserted. "We are happy to be contributing to the health of the nation, to make people feel better and look better."

Ironically, Eternity has been approached by Poster Media, the company that does the bus-stop advertisements, to put up their vegetarian ice-cream posters in Jerusalem. The parve ice-cream, presumably, will not provoke the ultra-Orthodox into vandalizing the bus-stops as scanty bathing-suits have done.

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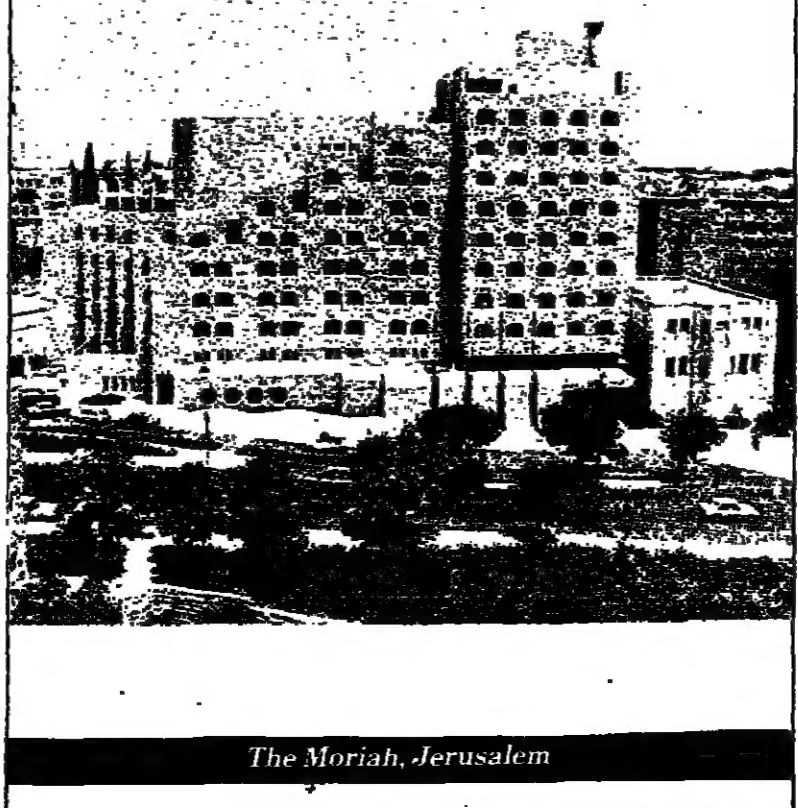
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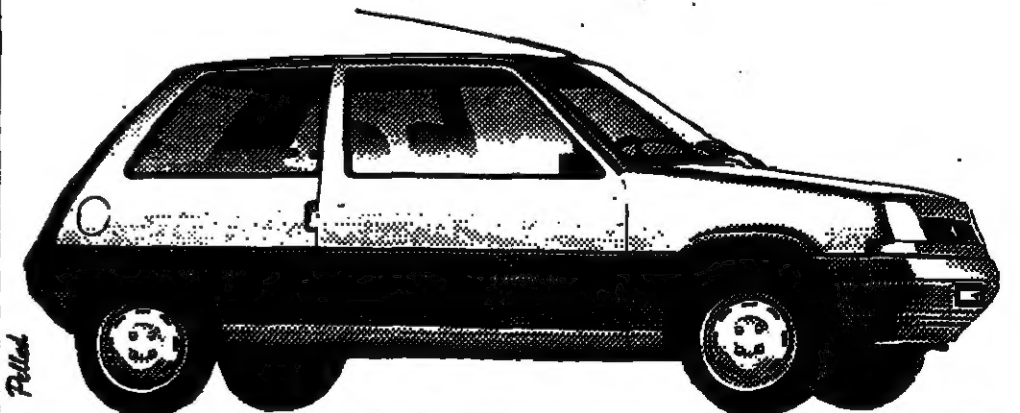
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Jerusalem district: 15 Reh. Hillel, Tel. 02-224011

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Solel Boneh used to 'roll over' its debts

A SEVERE BLOW which hit Solel Boneh was financial. Strangely enough, although the problem grew into devastating proportions as a result of the emergency economic programme instituted by former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i in July 1985, it had its roots in the administration (end of 1979 until early 1981) of another Likud finance minister, Yigael Hurvitz.

Hurvitz virtually "nationalized" the Histadrut's pension funds by forcing them to invest the overwhelming bulk of their income in government issued, index-linked bonds (the government used these incoming funds for its ongoing expenses).

At one time, these funds were the source of long-term, low-interest linked loans for such Histadrut institutions as Solel Boneh. And although they were still in the "pipeline," such funds (which had already been guaranteed) began to dry up fast.

Nearly all the country's construction work is financed by such long-term, low-interest loans, since contractors work on long-term projects. Such projects take much longer here than abroad, due to long de-

Paying out over 14 per cent of sales revenue to cover interest on short-term loans can be murderous for a large organization. MACABEE DEAN reports in the fourth of a series.

lays in obtaining building licences and old-fashioned building methods — both of which factors push up the price of the final product.

LIKE ALL contractors, Solel Boneh also plays the game of "rolling over" its obligations. When it gets advances to construct a building, it often spends this money to finance current construction work. It builds its next project on funds obtained from the previous one, and so on.

This system works quite well when the pace of building is rapid, for there is always more money pouring in for future work than is spent on present work. It also works, but not quite as well, when the pace of building is fairly steady. But it can create an acute cash-flow shortage when the pace of building drops off, since the money coming in for future work is insufficient to cover the cost of current construction. And, as

noted, there has been a slow but steady drop in new building starts during the past few years.

So when it ran out of money, when it could no longer obtain long-term, low-interest credits, Solel Boneh was forced either to throw up its hands and plead for mercy (which it was forced to do anyway at a later date) or to seek short-term loans.

IN 1981 Solel Boneh had a net debt of \$90 million, nearly all of it long-term. By 1985 its total debt had grown to \$290m. Of \$95m. borrowed in 1985, some \$35m. was in short-term loans. And in July and August of 1985, the interest rates were catastrophic. True, they have dropped somewhat since, but they are still murderous today compared with former long-term, low-interest funds.

Most of these short-term funds came from Bank Hapoalim (which is normal, since Bank Hapoalim and

Solel Boneh belong to the same Hovrat Ha'ovdim "family"), with a lesser sum coming from Bank Leumi. The exact sums are not known, for neither the Fogel Report nor Solel Boneh's annual report mentions to whom it owes money, and the banks themselves maintain client confidentiality.

At any rate, the high cost of short-term credit increased Solel Boneh's financing costs by at least 50 per cent. In 1984 such financing costs constituted about 8 per cent of sales revenues, but in the first half of 1985 they jumped to 14 per cent and in the latter half of 1985 they rose even more.

Government intervention was needed to stabilize the company's financial situation, to give Solel Boneh enough time to catch its financial breath — and to begin to pay off its debts, which it can probably only do when the country's construction industry again begins to pick up momentum. Reorganizing Solel Boneh, by stripping it of considerable manpower and selling some of its assets, is aimed mainly at helping it weather the present doldrums in construction work.



Clerks are busy at a Tokyo bank's dealing room at mid-morning yesterday as the dollar hit 168.90 despite the intervention of the Bank of Japan. (AFP)

\$ at record low against yen

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The dollar fell to an all-time low against the Japanese yen yesterday after closing lower against most currencies in trading in New York on Monday.

Dealers said the drop was caused partly by belief that the listless performance of the U.S. economy will force the Federal Reserve to repeat Friday's half-point cut in the discount rate soon.

The dollar fell to 170.85 yen in New York Monday from 174.30 yen on Friday, as traders scrambled to sell after President Reagan said the yen's sharp rise against the dollar was "legitimate."

In Tokyo yesterday the dollar fell even further to 169.95 yen but later recovered to 170.10. The greenback has fallen nearly 30 per cent against the yen since September.

The dollar's losses came despite what dealers called heavy intervention by the Bank of Japan. They said it bought between \$200 and \$300 million in New York Monday after

buying some \$1.5 billion earlier in Tokyo in an effort to prop up the greenback.

The dollar also fell against the West German mark on expectations that Bonn will not match U.S. and Japanese discount rate cuts, dealers said. Lower interest rates make a currency less attractive to foreign investors.

The dollar closed at a low for the year of 2.1920 marks, down from 2.2150 at Friday's close. In after-market trading it broke through the 2.19-mark level to 2.1860 marks.

The main focus was on the yen, however. Reagan, in an interview with news agency reporters, refused to say whether the yen should rise further, but dealers saw his "legitimate" remark as a green light to buy.

Steve Cerier, foreign exchange economist with Manufacturers Hanover Trust, said Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. could on a conservative estimate swell to \$70b. this year from about \$56b. in 1985.

Taking steps to create a uniform new tax year

By SHLOMO MAOZ
Post Economic Editor

The current fiscal year which started in April, will be only nine months long, ending in December, according to Israel Baron, head of the State Revenue Administration, and Income Tax Commissioner Yair Rabinovitz.

The change, which requires new legislation, is designed to create a uniform tax year for all sectors of the economy. The purpose is to prevent businesses from paying lower taxes by taking advantage of varying report deadlines and transferring income from company to company.

Making winter the tax season is also expected to facilitate assessment, because fewer people are away on vacation.

Greater activity on the part of income tax assessors has resulted in increased collections, according to reports. Only 8-10 per cent of the population has been caught in attempts at tax evasion, compared to double that number in the past.

Roadside surveys of private vehicles have been suspended, however, until the Attorney General rules on the legality of the practice.

Baron said he has instructions from Finance Minister Moshe Nisim to start work immediately on a tax reform programme for fiscal 1987.

The thrust of the programme will be to reduce both individual and corporate taxation, and to eliminate all one-time taxes. Increased economic activity and a broader tax base are expected to compensate for the resulting loss in revenues.

The income tax department has already engaged 300 new workers, who must pass a year-long training course. Meanwhile, 100 of the 400 workers taken on last year have resigned — a fact that has taken a toll of the new work plan.

Number of firms in trouble rising

TEL AVIV. — The number of firms in financial difficulties increased by 369 during the first quarter of 1986, to stand at 1,961, according to Eyal Yanai, head of the business information division of Dun & Bradstreet.

Almost 24 per cent of the firms in

trouble on April 1 were in trade and services, followed by building and construction, 21 per cent; textiles and clothing (11), metal (10), tourism and transport (9), rubber and plastics (8), and computers and communications 7 per cent.

Monthly index to chart goal of economic independence

By MACABEE DEAN
TEL AVIV. — The head of the Export Institute — Ya'acov Even-Ezra — has devised an index, which will show how fast Israel is moving forward towards — or retreating from — its goal of economic independence.

The monthly index, based on data by the Central Bureau of Statistics, will exclude diamonds, which are generally handled separately from industrial exports.

"At a later date, we will also publish a monthly year-goal index, showing how many years it will take until the country reaches economic independence."

Even-Ezra thinks that a trade balance can be reached by the end of 1990, if industrial exports increase by 15 per cent a year.

"This is an attainable goal — we have reached it in the past." If the 15 per cent annual increase in industrial exports is reached, current industrial exports of \$4.5 billion will come to \$9b. by 1990, which will even the commercial balance of payments. All this is provided that civilian consumer imports increase by only two per cent a year. (But the import of raw materials for manufacturing and

export should increase considerably more.)

The index will be worked out by comparing a month, or consecutive months, in 1985, to the same period in 1986. The 1986 figure must be at least 15 per cent higher than the 1985 figure, if economic independence is to be reached.

For example, during the first quarter of 1985 industrial exports totalled \$895.4 million, while for the same quarter in 1986 they were \$998.5m. This shows that exports increased by only 12 per cent, considerably short of the goal of 15 per cent.

Even-Ezra points out that industrial exports are dependent on "reasonable profitability," which is not being achieved at present due to the government's belt-tightening policy. However, while the government allocated only \$1.5m. in 1985 for promoting Israeli goods in the U.S., this year the sum will be doubled. Moreover, the government will grant exporters a \$1m. loan to help introduce a brand name for Israeli goods.

The Export Institute is in constant consultation with American specialists about selecting this brand name.

World Bank to lend China \$230 million

PEKING (AP). — The World Bank and its agency, the International Development Association, will lend China \$230 million for electrification of railways in four provinces, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The World Bank will provide a

20-year loan of \$160m. at a flexible interest rate, initially set at 8.5 per cent per year. The International Development Association will lend China \$70m. at an interest rate of 0.5 to 0.75 per cent. The repayment period will be 50 years.

'Keep the Merkava going'

TEL AVIV. — An actions committee has been set up by representatives of some 30 industrial concerns producing equipment for the Merkava tank, to lobby with the authorities not to reduce production. The committee members claim that the Merkava is the best and cheapest tank for Israel's needs, and that the added value on each tank is about 65%.

Kibbutz exports are up

TEL AVIV. — Exports by members of the Kibbutz Industries Association increased by 23 per cent in the first quarter of 1986 compared to the same period in 1985, to stand at \$70 million. During the same quarter all of the country's industrial exports increased by only 2.1 per cent. Thus, the Kibbutz Industries accounted for about 7 per cent of all industrial exports in that quarter.

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If offers are retracted, any costs incurred will be deducted from the bank guarantee or bank cheque.

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Additional details and viewing appointments are obtainable from the undersigned.

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Organizations and individual students who would like to participate should make contact with:

Student Division, World Zionist Organization, P.O. Box 92,
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MARKET PLACE

Vancouver's Expo 86 a sparkling \$1.5b. effort

VANCOUVER (Reuters). — When Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana officially open Expo 86 here on May 2, they will launch what organizers are confidently describing as one of the major international events in North America this century.

Indeed, the \$1.5 billion transportation and communications fair with the theme "World in Motion — World in Touch" does appear headed for a successful six-month run in this Canadian port city, which is celebrating its 100th birthday.

Superpower rivalry will abound, with the Soviet Union, China and the U.S. making their first appearance together at a North American fair.

Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union are devoting almost all of their pavilions to showcasing achievements in manned space flight.

The competition for exhibition space has been intense and a Malaysian delegation which was late filing its application may end up locating its pavilion on a nearby barge.

"We are sold out," says James Pattison, president and chairman of Expo 86 Corp. "We can't find space for another food cart on that site."

An estimated 15 million people are expected to visit the picturesque 173-acre site along the waterfront with the snow-capped Rocky Mountains as a backdrop. The successful \$100 million sales effort is believed to be the largest marketing campaign ever on the continent.

Besides the future king and queen of Britain, expected visitors include British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, U.S. Vice President George Bush, a high-level Chinese delegation and royalty from Japan.

Expo 86 is a "special category" fair at which the host nation leases prefabricated structures to foreign countries and the theme is limited. The result is a proliferation of modular rectangles to house 54 foreign exhibitors.

The Soviet pavilion will be the largest of the 39 international installations. It will celebrate that country's pioneering role in space with a 15-metre statue of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, who became the first man in space in April 1961.

The highlight of the exhibition will be a duplicate of the Soyuz-Salyut space station now orbiting the earth. While it has never been launched, the 33-metre-long structure is "the real thing," said pavilion representative Michael Smirnov.

He said the Soviets spent \$1.7m. of their \$5m. Expo budget just to ship it to Vancouver.

The U.S. decided last summer to scrap plans to display one of the space shuttles. Enterprise, because of the \$2.6m. cost of refurbishing and transporting it to Canada's West Coast.

Instead, the Americans will spotlight their space expertise in a series of scale models.

One section of the pavilion will be devoted to heroes of the space programme, including the seven astronauts killed in the Challenger shuttle disaster in January.

Another area will focus on spacecraft while a third will feature the shuttle and preparations for a launch. But the centerpiece will be a dramatic outer-space diorama, with a scale model of the proposed U.S. space station.

"This is one thing people will remember most vividly," said U.S. exhibits director James Ogil. "They walk right out onto a platform, as if they are on a shuttle about to dock with the space station."

For their part, the Chinese, still relatively new to world expositions, will have less to sell and more to see than in past appearances.

The exhibits will range from bricks that came from the Great Wall to a model of a ship used by navigator Cheng Ho, who made seven epic voyages to the west in the 15th century.

But the overall message that Expo 86 will deliver is that technology cannot solve all the world's problems, in itself a break with the tradition that world's fairs offer rosy visions of the future.

The host province of British Columbia is counting on Expo 86 to lift the local resource-based economy out of the lagging effects of the recession and to create new opportunities for jobs and investment.

Yet the fair is expected to give the province a shot of confidence — despite the anticipated \$400m. deficit from the cost of staging it.

It will put Vancouver on the map for half a year and is likely to lead to the end of the city's reputation as an unknown townland behind the mountains.

Keeping the foreign debt down

By SHLOMO MAOZ
Post Economic Editor

The growth of Israel's foreign debt was almost brought to a standstill, with only \$180 million added during fiscal 1985. The total debt, which now stands at \$23.850m., actually decreased by \$103m. during the last quarter of the year.

Keeping a lid on the foreign debt has been one of the goals of the economic recovery plan as advocated by both the government and former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

According to Bank of Israel reports yesterday, the debt would have been reduced even further during

the last quarter — by \$267m. — if the savings had not been offset by the weakening value of the dollar.

The Bank of Israel measures the foreign debt by subtracting the overseas assets of the banking system from the sum of all loans.

If the country's various other foreign currency reserves were also to be taken into account, the debt would be less than \$30 billion.

During the nine months period beginning this month and ending in December, Israel plans to pay back \$1.622m. of principal on medium and long-term loans, and another \$1.266m. of interest, a total of \$2.888 million.

Chrysler profits slide 30 per cent

DETROIT (AP). — Chrysler Corp. said yesterday its first-quarter profits slipped to 30 per cent below the year-ago level. Soaring expenditures on products and higher labour costs cut into earnings from a modest increase in sales.

The No. 3 automaker in the U.S. reported net earnings of \$356.9 million in the three months ending March 31, compared with \$507.6m. in the year-ago period.

The automaker's sales totalled \$5.78 billion in the first quarter up 7 per cent from \$5.41 billion a year earlier.

Chrysler was the first of the Big Three automakers to report first-quarter results. General Motors and Ford were also expected to release earnings this week.

Chairman Lee Iacocca said Chrysler continued its five-year \$12.5b. investment programme during the quarter and product expenditures were about 30 per cent higher than in the year-ago quarter.

Chrysler said it sold 566,800 cars and trucks worldwide in the first quarter, 3.6 per cent more than in the first quarter last year.

U.S. consumer prices drop 0.4 per cent in March

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — U.S. consumer prices fell 0.4 per cent in March after an identical decline in the previous month, the Labour Department said yesterday.

The expected drop added to evidence that inflation in the U.S. has

been conquered, at least for now.

It was also likely to fuel speculation that the Federal Reserve Board, which cut its key discount rate last Friday to 6.5 per cent from 7 per cent, might consider a further reduction.

Agnellis ready to buy Libyan stake in Fiat

MILAN (Reuters). — The Italian owners of Fiat, Italy's biggest industrial concern, are willing to buy back Libya's minority stake in the company, Fiat managing director Cesare Romiti was quoted yesterday as saying.

Romiti told the Milan newspaper *Il Giornale* that he did not know whether the Libyans wanted to sell their shares, but he said that IFI, the finance company through which the Agnelli family controls Fiat, was ready to buy them at any time.

Libya in 1976 acquired a stake of around 13 per cent in Fiat's ordinary share capital, which is currently held by the Libyan Arab Foreign Investments Bank. Fiat officials said the stake was worth some 4,000 billion lire (\$2.7 billion).

Romiti said a condition of the original agreement with the Libyans, who after the Agnellis are the biggest shareholders in Fiat, was that the company would continue to be free from interference in its management.

Asked if Fiat was having trouble winning contracts in the U.S. because of the Libyan connection, Romiti answered: "These problems are real, but I think the attitude of certain American sectors is super-sensitive."

Fiat, which is also involved in aerospace and defence, has expressed an interest in taking part in the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, commonly known as the "Star Wars" project.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:

General Share Index	113.13	+1.51%
Non-Bank Index	130.38	+2.61%
Arrangement	105.45	+0.88%
Insurance	155.73	+4.54%
Commerce, Services	141.47	+2.25%
Real Estate	159.49	+3.18%
Industrial	123.34	+2.30%
Textiles	147.25	+3.29%
Metals	114.70	+4.04%
Electronics	108.51	+1.30%
Chemicals	124.94	+2.58%
Industrial Invest.	113.44	+3.40%
Investment Cos.	123.34	+2.75%
General Bond Index	104.21	+0.10%
Index-linked Bonds	104.05	+0.27%
Fully-linked	106.27	+0.39%
Partially-linked	103.58	+0.18%
Dollar-linked Bonds	98.18	+0.52%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	103.32	+0.18%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	103.78	+0.18%
Long-term 5+ yrs	103.19	-0.14%

Turnovers:

Shares — total	NIS 6,234,900
Arrangement	NIS 1,308,000
Non-bank	NIS 4,926,900
Bonds — total	NIS 8,438,900
Index-linked	NIS 4,848,200
Dollar-linked	NIS 3,590,700
Treasury Bills	NIS 7,400,200
Share Movements:	
Advances	264 (145)
of which 5%+	87 (35)
"buyers only"	16 (3)
Declines	21 (112)
of which 5%+	3 (25)
"sellers only"	1 (1)
Unchanged	101 (128)
Trading Halt	52 (53)
Bond Market Trends:	
Index-linked	Rises to 1%
3% fully-linked	

4.25% fully-linked	Rises to 1.5%
80% linked	Rises to 0.5%
90% linked	Rises to 0.5%
Double-linked	Rises to 0.5%
Dollar-linked:	
Admon	Slight rise
Rimon	Falls to 0.5%
Gilboa	Falls to 3%
For. Curr. denominated	Mixed to 2%
Treasury Bills (monthly yield)	1.30% — 1.58%
Arrangement yields:	
IDB ord.	12.04%
Union 0.1	11.65%
Discount A	11.71%
Mizrahi r.	11.63%
Hapoalim r.	11.85%
General A	trading halt
Leumi stock	12.09%
Fin. Trade 7	11.31%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	% change
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Medium-term 2-5 yrs	103.78		+0.18%
Long-term 5+ yrs	103.19		-0.14%

Name	Price	Volume	% change
General Share Index	113.13		+1.51%
Non-Bank Index	130.38		+2.61%
Arrangement	105.45		+0.88%
Insurance	155.73		+4.54%
Commerce, Services	141.47		+2.25%
Real Estate	159.49		+3.18%
Industrial	123.34		+2.30%
Textiles	147.25		+3.29%
Metals	114.70		+4.04%
Electronics	108.51		+1.30%
Chemicals	124.94		+2.58%
Industrial Invest.	113.44		+3.40%
Investment Cos.	123.34		+2.75%
General Bond Index	104.21		+0.10%
Index-linked Bonds	104.05		+0.27%
Fully-linked	106.27		+0.39%
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The other bank

OF ALL the bankers, only the managing director of Bank Hapoalim, Giora Gazit, has had the wit and grace to act immediately on the Bejski commission's insistence that the chiefs of the country's four major banks resign.

True, the nature of the commission's sentence regarding the bankers, that all, save Gazit himself, should be barred from holding any banking positions in the future is unprecedented. Such defrocking has been known in the medical and legal professions, which are licensed. It is unheard of in business and commerce and raises genuine questions about its legitimacy. But those questions should not be exploited to delay the resignations that the commission demands.

The removal of the Governor of the Bank of Israel is, of course, a wholly different matter. A civil servant, subject to administrative law and usage, he is left with no discretion after the report. And Dr. Mandelbaum has already announced that he is winding up his duties. Presumably what has prevented him from formally resigning already is the absence of a deputy governor who would step in to fill the vacuum.

The government will, therefore, have to move swiftly to name a replacement for the Governor. Ordinarily, as has become the practice in the national unity government, filling this position would become the subject of inter-party bargaining. But apparently, after the Moda'i crisis, it has been agreed that the new governor will be a person acceptable to, or deriving from, the ranks of the Labour Alignment.

Such agreement provides sufficient latitude to find an appropriate candidate.

As a matter of historical record, the Governor's role was shaped by its first, and long-time incumbent David Horowitz. His expertise and prestige lent the position a broad independence from government. That independence did not, perhaps match, say, the model of the U.S. Federal Reserve chairman. Nevertheless, it far transcended the subservient role to which the governorship has deteriorated in recent years.

That process became especially notable during Yoram Aridor's tenure as finance minister. Bridling at the resistance he encountered from the former Governor, Aharon Gafni, Aridor was determined to bring the bank to heel. He effectively drove out some of its best professionals and assured himself that Gafni's successor would do his bidding.

The Bejski commission has shown again the need for a strong central bank. The point at which that process must be started is in the appointment of the Governor.

That he should have good Labour credentials, or even that he should have professional economic credentials, cannot, therefore, be adequate criteria. Rather he must be someone whose claim to the job derives from his professional prestige and independence of mind, and not from any sort of party obligations or considerations of patronage.

This would have been an urgent imperative even without the Bejski Commission Report. After the report it is absolute.

If it is the case, therefore, that the Likud and Labour have agreed that it is Labour that has the right to name the new candidate for Governor, it should be plain that after the Bejski Report the public will judge not only the government, but the Labour Party, by the nature of the candidate it proposes.

Not only the banking business, but also the political business can no longer - in the area of national financial management - be business as usual.

Weakening identity

YA'ACOV VAINSTEIN

A RECENT poll found that 25 per cent of the respondents thought religious people "are exploiters, charlatans and thieves." Another 22 per cent saw religious people in a negative light.

It is hard to imagine the violent reaction against religious Jews, fomented by the media, had religious Jews accused secularists in a poll of being criminals because thousands of prisoners in our jails are not observant. No truly religious Jew would ever dream of besmirching a whole section of his people in such an abusive manner, for that would be tantamount to desecrating the honour of man created in the image of God.

There is unfortunately a concerted effort by various anti-religious Jews in Israeli society to blacken the reputation and aims of religious Jewry. They seize upon any opportunity to malign and condemn the entire religious community.

The result has been a widening of the gap between the religious and secular sectors in Israel and a lamentable misunderstanding on the part of the latter of the many contributions made by religious Jews to the state - before and since its founding.

SOON AFTER the state's establishment, the Knesset passed a number of laws which are rooted in the Jewish heritage. It made kosher kitchens mandatory in the army, so that all servicemen - religious and secular - could eat at common tables; it legislated the Sabbath and the Jewish festivals as Israel's official days of rest and it passed marriage and divorce laws designed to ensure the Jewishness of our community.

Let us for a moment consider the consequences of the absence of these laws. When Ben-Gurion agreed that the above laws apply to all Jews in Israel, he spelled out the sole guarantee for the unity of our nation, for these laws have ensured the survival of our people through our chequered history and have constituted the bulwark against assimilation.

Without religious laws of marriage and divorce, separate communities would have been created, separate marriage registers where one section would refuse to marry the other, with a consequent total estrangement and tragic split. The law requiring kashrut in the army has the same objective - to ensure unity and to prevent divisions between comrades-in-arms. The same principle of unity applies to the law promulgating the Jewish Sabbath and festivals as the nation's days of rest.

These laws have created mutual tolerance in the Jewish state and built bridges of good relations between all sectors of the population. It is laws such as these which give Israeli life a Jewish expression and character.

I BELIEVE that the reason for recent manifestations of animosity toward religious Jews is to be found in a general serious weakening of Jewish and Zionist identities and Jewish social and ethical values, which have little to do with specific religious issues. They point to a loosening of certain moral, national and spiritual standards which secular Jews once shared with their religious Zionist neighbours. New norms are being introduced in the domains of culture, social conduct, dress, attitudes to Israel's Defence Force and the Jewishness of the state.

They bear witness to the fact that many secularists do not think in Jewish terms any more. It is these changes in modes of living and thinking that have enlarged the gap between that group and moderate religious Jewry, even between secular-

ists and the Jewish state, safeguarded in the Law of Return.

In a recent study conducted among 370 students at the Haifa University by Prof. Adir Cohen, head of the School and Faculty of Education, he writes that many students do not hesitate to say: "I do not consider myself a Jew; hence it is not clear to me why this land belongs to me!" Cohen says that since young people do not possess a minimal knowledge of the spiritual and cultural history of the Jewish people, it is no wonder that in their adulthood they are incapable of facing the requirements presented to them by Judaism as a faith. Many are unaware, he says, what makes their life in Israel distinctively Jewish and what is their special image and national character beyond their daily existence.

In the past, the majority of religious and non-religious shared a more or less common outlook on issues connected with the building of Eretz Yisrael and the importance of the State of Israel as the state of Jews and Judaism. There existed a national understanding, often called the "status quo," on religious and spiritual issues. Today much of this consensus has disappeared.

Not only are secularists trying to break previous agreements on coexistence, but the disagreement has spread to the quality of our social life, and the moral standards of Israel's citizens.

The argument that education alone, without resort to religious legislation, can be the sole tool for ensuring the Jewish content of the State of Israel, has also shown up the intolerance of many secularists. For example, large numbers of penitents (horei bereshuva) have created a vociferous outcry among secularists. It has even led to a closing of the doors by the army and school and school authorities to rabbis, religious academics, Habadniks and the like.

Here we have enlightenment in its purest sense; no coercive laws, no violence, only a spiritual challenge to Jews seeking greater meaning and stronger values in their lives. Instead of recognizing the spiritual void in which these young people have grown up and acknowledging their search for values, these secularists shut the doors to religious enlightenment.

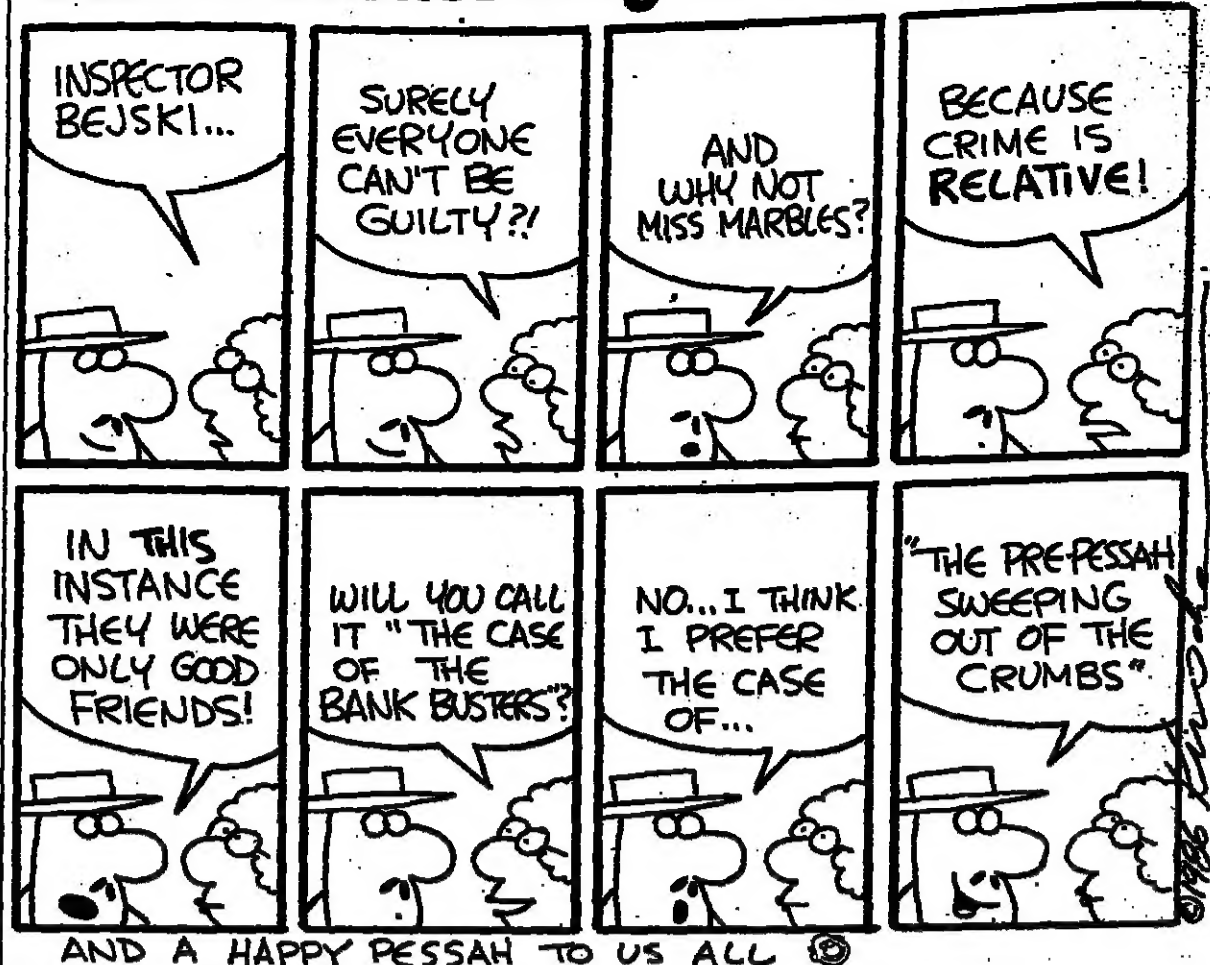
Why should secular youth not meet religious national Jewry, visit religious kibbutzim and moshavim, visit the yeshivot where their comrades-in-arms study, see the religious national service girls at work on border settlements, hospitals, old-age homes and police, be exposed to the thousands of religious academics, take part in services at synagogues, be acquainted with the spiritual Jewish heritage and culture? Why should mixed gatherings with Arabs be organized by the Ministry of Education while meetings with religious youth do not receive the same encouragement and activity?

All level-headed Israelis must see the facts and the dangers as they are, without prejudice and without covering up failures. Then, secularists will recognize that basic religious laws are vital for the survival of the Jewish state and not shut themselves into secularist ghettos, and the religious will acknowledge the limitations of such legislation and use the tools of enlightenment and instruction with love and understanding.

Rabbi Vainstein is president of the Ramot Shapira World Youth Centre.

Readers' Letters
appear on page 6

The Pessah Dry Bones



Widening rift

DAVID KRIVINE

THE BRUTAL, vindictive reception given by a Jewish group to fellow-Jews attending a Peace Now conference in Hebron last week reveals with a jolt what a trap we are making for ourselves through our settlement policy in the occupied areas.

Those who have built their homes there - let us call them colonists for short - are intellectually in a cleft stick. They cannot think objectively about peace-making with the Arabs and all that goes with it - Palestinian rights, the Jordanian option, the Yaviv-Shemtov formula, a piece of territory for a piece of peace, etc. Each of these slogans spells doom to them.

They have made their dwelling-place in an area which is not theirs to live in. They have put themselves in a false position, judging by conventional standards. They must develop an unconventional theory of society that should justify that false position. They need a moral basis for their claim to stay where they are.

Their lives already have a moral basis: Judaism; and this can be made to serve their purpose. The Jewish religion is founded on the Bible, which is the saga of a small people in arduous times who, among other activities, discovered God.

The Bible is a mixture of the two themes: the saga theme, or the continuous tooth-and-nail fight of that small people for living-space; and the discovery theme, or the moments of communion with God which supplied the moral origins of Western civilization.

It is possible to fasten either on one theme or on the other. The moral principles of Judaism can be seen as universal, or can be placed in a purely tribal context. Love your neighbour, certainly - but your Jew-

ish neighbour, not your Arab neighbour.

Which version shall it be? The ultra-Orthodox and the ultra-nationalists today have different objectives. Not all the Orthodox are nationalist, not all the nationalists are Orthodox. But they have a common interest: they both want an interpretation of Judaism which shall be rigid, formalistic, separatist, ethnocentric and xenophobic.

They achieve that by confining themselves entirely to the holy writings and by taking each precept in those writings literally, without inquiring into the intention behind it or its moral implications.

Their resultant dogmatism was nursed in the ghetto communities of Eastern Europe, who lived a segregated and introverted life. They had no relationship with the outside world, other than for business. Their cultural isolation - deplored, one would have thought, by all Jews as a manifestation of anti-Semitism - is now revived and cherished by the Orthodox.

This is the key point on which the humanists differ. They actively seek a dialogue with the rest of mankind. They are proud to be Jews, but they are not only that - they are also members of the human race. They possess their own culture but are not confined to it. They also share in the general culture; and the two intermingle.

The Orthodox shut their eyes to world culture. They cling to their own, wanting to preserve it unaltered. Orthodox Judaism is intensely conservative, locked in the past. Wisdom does not have to be sought.

it is already revealed. It is enclosed in a sacrosanct corpus of writings called Halacha. New thinking consists of working out new problems in terms of Halacha.

Orthodoxy remains unchanged as the world develops, so becomes increasingly idiosyncratic.

THIS PATTERN of life and thought suits the colonists. It becomes easier to settle among the numerous Arabs of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan (some of them refugees from what is now Israel) if you believe that the Jews are divinely ordained to inhabit Eretz Yisrael, that is, Palestine.

Yisrael Ne'eman was able, without blinking, to tell the conference of the Tehiya party in Kiryat Arba last week that any peace treaty with the Arabs must provide for the migration of 500,000 Arab refugees out of Palestine.

In order to applaud such an insensate proposal, the delegates must have turned the clock back. Our right-wing hard-liners have retraced their steps to the Land of Canaan. They view themselves as the Children of Israel, surrounded by Moabites, Midianites and Amalekites.

They believe that the diminutive state of Israel is privileged. It can cock a snook at the human species and go it alone, secure in God's protection.

The hysterical physical attack on Peace Now delegates shows how far we are allowing the country to stray, under Likud, Gush Emunim and ultra-Orthodox guidance, from the ideals of justice, peace and loving-kindness (as outlined in tractate Avot of the Mishna) that we had always taken for granted.

The writer is a commentator on public affairs.

POSTSCRIPTS

P.S. FOR 10 DAYS Hindu holy men and state officials burned sacred fires, billowing clouds of incense, and prayed to purify the air, pacify 640 million Hindu gods and prevent a recurrence of the world's worst chemical disaster.

The massive anti-pollution ceremony, a consecration of the air, involved blowing holy conch shells in Hindu temples and burning more than 800 kilos of ghee, or clarified butter, and hundreds of kilos of sweet seeds, sugar, rice, barley and herbs.

The ceremony, which ended in Bhopal recently, was intended to remove pollution from the atmosphere of the central Indian city, where more than 2,000 people died in a leak of deadly methyl isocyanate gas from a U.S. Union Carbide Corp. pesticide plant on December 3, 1984. The ritual, conducted by 500 Hindu holy men from across India and the Madhya Pradesh state government, also involved mass prayers for salvation of souls of gas victims of the world's worst industrial disaster.

One of the organizers, Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati, claimed that more than 2,510,414 offerings were made to a pantheon of 640 million Hindu gods.

A local Hindu newspaper, *De-shabandhu*, said: "The state pollution control board should be abolished now. In every industrial unit of the state the holy men's sacred bonfire should be made a compulsory annual event. Industrialists would be well advised to hold yearly purifying fires in every city in the state."

P.S. THE LONDON-BASED *Jewish Tribune* reports that "in the dark silence of Purim night" supporters of a Manchester yeshiva affixed some 1,500 "parking tickets" to Jewish-owned cars in several areas of London, Glasgow and Belfast.

These tickets closely resembled the real thing, but were headed "Mitzvapolitan Police." They stated that the car was seen in circumstances suggesting that the driver was unable to tell the difference between *Arur Mordechai* and *Baruch Hanman*.

The notices stipulated that if a reasonable sum (each person according to his pocket) were paid to the Clerk of the Yeshiva within 14 days, the students would not seek prosecution for the offence, and the person's liability to be pestered for a donation would be discharged.

The tickets were issued under the Purim Traffic Regulation Act, and signed V. Ashtil, J.W.

P.S. DENMARK will deport 40 leaders of the Scientology Church's European and African headquarters in Copenhagen, the Danish Justice Ministry has announced.

The group includes 24 Swiss, seven Austrians, two U.S. citizens as well as other nationals. Scientology, which practices a form of psychotherapy and claims several million adherents worldwide, was founded in 1952 by the U.S. science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard who died earlier this year.

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